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Ombudsman concentrates on vocational opportunities for women

Marlies Kutsch, Bonn ombudsman for women's affairs for the past 10 months, has one main task: to promote partnership and equality for women.

In this capacity, she has just attended a conference with women unionists at which she presented a range of posters to promote her cause. The most successful of these posters depicts a grim-looking man standing behind a frightened-looking woman and holding her in a vice-like grip. The caption reads: "Partnership does not equal ownership".

Partnership and equality: women feel that they are missing out on both — especially in their private lives.

Even so, Frau Kutsch, whose office is attached to the Bonn Family Affairs Ministry, feels that her greatest chances lie in the occupational rather than the private sector.

As a former trade-union official, she knows that progress can only be achieved step by step. Right now, she is working on several pilot schemes aimed at facilitating the return to work for women who have been out of a job for a long time because they were unemployed or had to devote themselves to the family. This is to be done by further education and retraining for occupations hitherto for men.

Marlies Kutsch holds that the usual division into male and womens occupations must be done away with since both sexes are equally suited for most jobs.

She has been promoting this objective through talks with the Labour Ministry on reforms of the present working hours system. One of her main aims is to lift the ban on the employment of women on construction sites.

As she sees it, most jobs on a construction site are perfectly suitable for women. She rejects the contention that it would be too hard for women to carry heavy bags of cement because, as she sees it, there is no reason why smaller bags cannot be used.

Ultimately, her aim is to cement equality in law by a new list of job designations. It should, for instance, be taken for granted that a locksmith or a brickayer can be either male or female.

Frau Kutsch has been negotiating with the authorities and with private enterprise about special promotional programmes for female workers. Some companies have already undertaken to permit suitable women to climb the career ladder, leaving men behind.

She has also extracted an undertaking from the Bonn Ministry of the Interior to appoint a special committee that will facilitate promotion for the Ministry's female staff.

In fact, the Interior Ministry already favours women over men — given equal qualification — when it comes to promotions.

The emphasis in Frau Kutsch's work lies on helping women make up for lost time. She wants to help women step out of the isolation of their housewifely existence. To achieve this, she is experimenting with "mother's meetings" as in Ludwigsburg and voluntary homework aid for schoolchildren as in the Saar.

The latter project has shown that a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment does not necessarily depend on having a job.

For many women it is a source of great satisfaction to know that their help has helped a child cope with school. As one housewife told Frau Kutsch: "I feel as if I had come to the promised land."

Another project is likely to cause a stir. Frau Kutsch wants to establish the so-called "Women's House" in the country as well. This type of home for battered women is now taken for granted in the major cities. It is the anonymity of city life that facilitates a woman's decision to escape a miserable home life.

Yet Frau Kutsch knows very well that there are as many marriages where the woman gets battered by the husband in the country as there are in the city. But in rural areas everybody knows everybody else and a woman finds it much more difficult to take such a step.

Marlies Kutsch
(Photo: Sven...)

Behind all these plans is the d... of day-to-day routine work in the... of which programmes and laws ar... scrutinised for their effects on th... ciple of equality.

Frequently, authorities disregard... lations and fail to consult her — p... rily because word has not yet got a... that there is such an institution a... ombudsman for women's affairs.

Still, no-one can officially affor... take an anti-feminist stance. And w... discrimination exists it is inconspic... — which makes it the more difficul... eliminate.

All this can lead to friction but... Frau Kutsch puts it, so far it has... been too bad.

Rudolf Grosst...

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 May...)

Crackdown on 'media bias'

More than 6m women in West Germany are preparing for an all-out campaign against "the distorted depiction of women in the media".

The women involved are organised in various groups under an umbrella organisation, the German Council of Women.

And they have the support of the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt.

The council said after a recent conference in Hamburg that a demonstration has been scheduled for 5 November in Bonn.

Newspapers using cartoons portraying secretaries as employers playthings can be expected to be blacklisted.

So can those who run advertisements featuring housewives as none-too-intelligent endorsers of various products.

Another subject dealt with by the Hamburg conference was women in prison. Though they account for only 3 per cent of our prison population, the council will go all out to achieve better conditions for them.

The council demands that imprisoned women be permitted to form larger groups and that they be provided with educational and vocational training.

Moreover, the council demands social-therapeutic institutions that will house both men and women. This would presuppose that a pilot scheme confirms the positive experience made abroad.

Among the other demands are: mother-child sections in prisons and communal living under expert supervision to prepare women prisoners for life outside.

To make all this possible, Germany's women demand more trained personnel and equal career opportunities for female prison staff.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 25 April 1980)

Grandmother is 'rejuvenated' by university

At 70, Margarete Dannenberg is Hanover Pedagogic University's oldest student. This grandmother of three feels rejuvenated since she started mixing with the young.

It is this very feeling that she has made the subject of her thesis entitled: "Analysis of Psychological Gerontology Surveys With a View to Methodic-Didactic Consequences for the Preparation for Old Age".

In plain language, her thesis simply deals with growing old. As much as she enjoys campus life among the young the everyday world.

Frau Dannenberg: "There seems to be a general resentment of the old and when you get into a bus during the rush hour the others seem to say 'Why don't you use the bus some other time, grandma?'"

And when passing a kindergarten and the toddlers run after her, ridiculing her and crying "Grandma! Old grandma!" she cannot help but ask what sort of parents they have.

Older people, says Frau Dannenberg, suffer from the generally negative attitude towards them. They feel unwanted and have inferiority complexes for fear of being useless.

Margarete Dannenberg does not exclude herself — not at university but everywhere else. On occasion she has been made mock of as an oldster who is trying to cling to youth. Yet she has obviously come to terms with the fact that everybody grows older — though not at the same rate.

The past 70 years have left their mark on her. Her life has not been easy. She had to abandon her wish to become a doctor because the parents could not afford to send her to university. So she became a medical laboratory assistant.



Margarete Dannenberg
(Photo: Karin Blüher)

Her husband fell in the early days of World War II, making her a widow at 30. She had to bring up two small children and to do so she had to give up two excellent jobs.

This was followed by a miserable time, marked by occasional work, unemployment, lack of money and living in a single room with her two children.

Margarete Dannenberg refused to throw in the towel. She managed to send her daughter to university while her son first tried his hand at being a seaman and then went to a teacher training college and is now a teacher.

Frau Dannenberg: "The funny th... about it is that we graduated from t... school on the same day."

Frau Dannenberg attended eve... classes from 1963 to 1966 — a p... which she calls both tough and stir... ting. She says: "The lessons lasted... four hours every evening and then... to be followed up by homework... what mattered was that I was ab... among young people."

After graduation she wants to t... nover's Pedagogic University.

Naturally, she knew from the... beginning that she would not be able... become a teacher in the employ of th... government. But that was never... intention.

After graduation she wants to... lance in the field of adult education... promote her idea that old age... planned for systematically.

"We get thoroughly prepared for... occupation but there is no training... old age. In fact, we refuse to believe... we will grow old one day, and when... day comes we find ourselves left... cold. Man ages the way he has lived... the true age need not necessarily... cide with the age by the calendar."

Consistent training, for instance... Frau Dannenberg, preserves our... to learn and sensible recreation... overcome the dual shock of retir... and the children leaving home.

Life goes on for Margarete D... berg and, as a graduate educat... she need not worry about being...

Klaus P...

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 4 Ma...)

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 1 June 1980
Nineteenth Year - No. 943 - By air

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Nato faces division of labour decision

The twofold crisis of Afghanistan and Iran has glaringly demonstrated that the dangers Nato is likely to face in the 80s will be mainly from overseas.

Crisis seems most likely to strike at what, for the industrialised countries, are vital, vulnerable oil and commodity supply lines.

In other words, the danger will lie outside the immediate compass of the North Atlantic pact. The logical inference might thus be that Nato boundaries should be extended.

More than 30 years ago Nato territory was limited, in an entirely different international situation, to the territory of member-countries and the North Atlantic, which linked Western Europe with North America.

But any such extension would overtax an alliance the operational solidarity of which is in any case governed by indecision; the North Atlantic Treaty would need to be revised.

So the only remaining option is a new division of labour within Nato as it is, and since US commitments in the Middle East are on the increase and this has to be offset in Europe, the Europeans are going to have step up their own defence efforts.

It is no use America giving an assurance that the US troop strength in Europe is to be maintained and that reserves will be transferred from America to step up the US military presence in the Middle East.

With all the good will in the world there can be no altering the fact that America has a shortage of universally deployable strike forces.

In any division of labour or sharing of burdens, and this has, more than ever, become the overriding topic at Nato gatherings, new and urgent missions are sure to be allocated to Bonn.

The Bundeswehr would, for instance, have to mobilise its national reserves much faster than has so far been envisaged. The danger of general war could swiftly arise if, say, Soviet troops were to invade Iran.

They might then advance from Afghanistan to the north and Aden to the south in a pincer movement round the Persian Gulf aimed at cutting off sea links with the West.

At a pinch America could make ends meet without oil supplies from the Persian Gulf, but not the industrialised countries of Western Europe.

So it is somewhat naive, to say the least, to argue that it is up to the United States alone to defend the Middle East from the encroachments of Soviet imperialism.

At the very least, Europe will be required to plug the gaps on its own territory left by US troops pulled out to serve in the crisis area.

The Bundesmarine has so far seen its role as being restricted to the defence of the Baltic approaches and the sector of the North Sea opposite the major German seaports.

This strictly limited role is now an extremely doubtful prospect. West Germany is the world's second-largest exporter. Safe trading routes at sea are a matter of life or death.

Can Bonn afford, in a context of overall threat, to leave the protection of major shipping routes to either the US Navy or pot luck?

West Germany has already taken on a major extra task in agreeing to supervise aid to Turkey. Economic and financial aid can swiftly assume a military dimension. Turkey occupies a key geostrategic location, and not only in the Mediterranean on Nato's south-east flank. In Turkey the West also has an invaluable starting point for the defence of the Middle East.

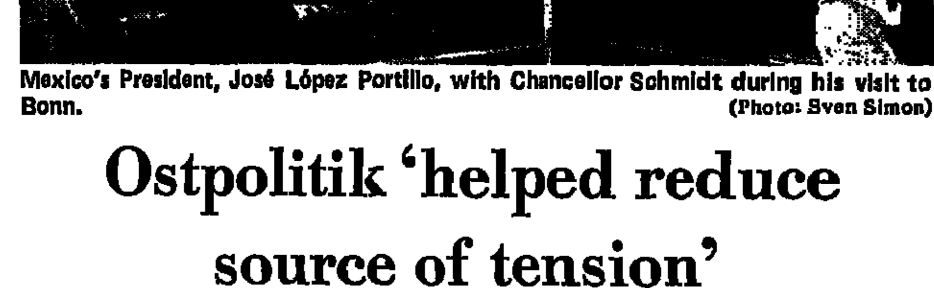
It reaches out from Nato territory to Begin's Israel and Sadat's Egypt and represents a Western military potential for protecting the Persian Gulf region.

This is a groundwork on which effective crisis planning could well be based.

Wolfgang Höpker

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 23 May 1980)

IN THIS ISSUE



Mexico's President, José López Portillo, with Chancellor Schmidt during his visit to Bonn. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Ostpolitik 'helped reduce source of tension'

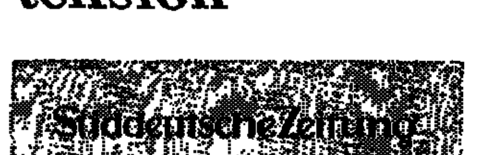
Bonn's advocacy of normal relations with the East bloc had helped eliminate a dangerous source of international tension, according to Mexico's President José López Portillo.

He said during a visit to the Federal Republic of Germany that Bonn had not been manoeuvred by extremists at home and abroad into "trying to put out the fire with the firebrand."

President Portillo held lengthy talks with Chancellor Schmidt during his four-day stay in Bonn.

They seem mainly to have discussed Afghanistan, Iran and the Middle East, the situation in Latin America and the North-South dialogue.

Government circles in Bonn were pleasantly surprised by an off-the-cuff mention by the Mexican President at a gala dinner of the "decisive contribution" made by Herr Schmidt and M.




Giscard d'Estaing towards keeping the peace.

Before coming to Bonn, Señor López Portillo visited the French capital.

The Mexican leader also conferred with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and leading industrialists.

He was also to exchange views with CSU leader and Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss.

Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff discussed with Mexican Industry Minister José Andres Oteyza and Pemex managing director Jorge Diaz Serrano possibilities of boosting economic ties and helping Mexico to industrialise.

The Mexicans were interested in more German investment, industrial cooperation in telecommunication, steel, port extensions and petroleum processing.

President López Portillo had already conferred with SPD leader Willy Brandt, chairman of the North-South Commission. A major topic was said to have been their joint bid to call a North-South summit, with limited attendance, to be held next year.

According to the Foreign Office both Herr Genscher and Señor López Portillo welcomed the Brandt Report in general and the summit proposal in particular.

Herr Genscher stressed that Mexico had a major role to play in both the North-South and the energy debate. Both sides, again according to the Bonn Foreign Office, were happy with their bilateral ties.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 May 1980)

Unity remains cornerstone of Bonn foreign policy

Membership of the EEC and Nato remains the foundation of Bonn's foreign policy in the 80s, says Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

"So priority must be given to keeping them both strong and developing them both further. We attach great importance to the common values and security interests shared by Europe and America.

"We are resolved to act accordingly and to pay no attention to fashionable anti-Americanism and decoupling of Europe," he said in a fundamental speech on the future guidelines of German foreign policy last month.

He delivered his speech at a ceremony held to mark the silver jubilee of the German Foreign Policy Association, Bonn.

Herr Genscher worked on the assumption that the 80s marked the beginning of a new era in world affairs that would entail extra responsibility for Bonn.

There was, however, no reason why Bonn or anyone else should go it alone. In the current international situation a strong European Community capable of taking action was more urgently needed than ever.

The Foreign Minister stressed: "We

Continued on page 2

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EEC foreign ministers attempt to broaden dialogue with Arabs

The EEC aims to reactivate and intensify its dialogue with the Arab world, by which it means that the Nine want to include political issues among the topics for cooperation.

The proviso is that the Arab countries must not try to limit the purview of political talks to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

This decision was taken by Common Market foreign ministers meeting in Naples. It was a cautious response to American pressure to exercise restraint and not upset the negotiations agreed at Camp David.

Washington has clearly opted for a policy change. Secretary of State Vance had urged Europe to take the initiative and play an active part in the search for a Middle East settlement.

It was already clear then that talks on self-government for the West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians would not reach a conclusion in time for the deadline of May 26.

It was also clear that extending the deadline would not substantially improve the chances of agreement being reached. President Sadat has since suspended the talks and no-one knows what is to happen next.

Eighteen of the 25 disputed issues have been settled but they were mostly technicalities; the talks had not yet got down to brass tacks.

The respective positions of Israel and Egypt are irreconcilable. Premier Begin, who never took the May 26 deadline seriously, is not prepared to agree to more than minority rights for the Palestinian territories.

He insists on Israel's right to watch over its own internal security and will not budge an inch on settlement policies that underscore his country's claim to predominance.

President Sadat, on the other hand, would like to ensure legislative, administrative and judicial powers for the self-governing council envisaged at Camp David.

At the end of a five-year transitional period he wants to see the status of the Palestinian territories settled once and for all.

He insists on voting rights for Arabs in East Jerusalem, whereas Israel's declared intention of officially integrating the eastern part of the city has led to the talks being suspended.

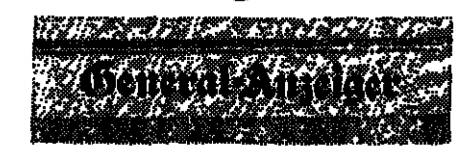
Presidents Carter and Sadat have invested a great deal of personal prestige in the talks, and the Egyptian leader is adopting an increasingly tough outlook as the prospects look gloomier, so much so that he might now return to the Arab fold.

President Carter, on the other hand, has obviously not yet given up hope of at least reaching a formal compromise in time for the US Presidential elections.

By the terms of such a compromise, unresolved issues of substance would be referred to the standing committee it was decided at Camp David to set up.

This is an arrangement that would satisfy no-one, including Europe, which is impatiently awaiting peace and quiet in this hot spot on its doorstep.

As Europe sees it, the Middle East conflict is not only one of the chief causes of developments leading up to events in Iran and Afghanistan; it is also a crucial obstacle to a constructive solu-



tion of the international crisis in conjunction with the non-aligned world.

At the same time it prevents Israel from playing an important role in the framework of an international balance-of-power strategy.

Since it is also an obstacle to a common-sense arrangement between major oil producers and consumers it is an issue of overriding importance for the industrialised countries of Europe too.

But EEC consideration of the opportunities the Common Market has of contributing towards progress on a Middle East settlement has quickly reached its limits.

A peace settlement against the will and interests of Israel is neither conceivable nor envisaged. Besides, no European move can be undertaken without prior agreement with the United States, as the latest developments have shown.

At the same time Egypt must be involved in any comprehensive settlement, as must the Arab countries in membership of the self-styled Rejectionist Front, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Europe is not cut out for the role of mediator. It can only provide flanking assistance in keeping with its shared responsibility for a neighbouring part of the world.

The bid to reactivate the Euro-Arab dialogue, which for years has been hamstrung by dissension in the Arab camp, is an attempt to open up fresh avenues for discussion.

So is the plan to conclude bilateral cooperation agreements with the Gulf states to step up ties with them.

A more comprehensive evaluation by leading Arab states of their overall interests might, it is presumably felt, induce them to adopt a more moderate outlook on the Middle East.

There are already signs of a regrouping in the Arab camp now that the hard core of the Rejectionist Front is veering closer to Moscow.

Britain's ambition of progressing via a fresh draft of UN Resolution 242 was fraught with difficulties from the outset. A number of Arab countries no longer acknowledge the UN resolution as the basis for a Middle East settlement.

What is more, the Soviet Union would be involved in matters again via the UN Security Council, and to judge by the latest US developments the move might well be vetoed by the United States.

The Common Market countries are nonetheless likely to define more closely what they mean by the Palestinians' right to self-determination, this being the issue at stake.

They will be continuing in the tradition of previous declarations on the Middle East situation and formulating the counter-demand to their clearly-stated viewpoint that Israel's existence must unquestionably be guaranteed.

An EEC resolution could well be framed by the Common Market leaders when the European Council meets in Venice on June 22 and 23. A draft has long been in existence.

In it the right of self-determination is described as the Palestinians' right to decide for themselves their representation and their future status, their status albeit only within the framework of a peace settlement with which all concerned are agreed.

Wolf J. Bell

(General-Anzeiger, 21 May 1980)

Bonn foreign policy

Continued from page 1

prefer energetic efforts to continue with integration policy in Europe to disintegration of the EEC into a customs union."

The Common Market's current difficult problems could only be solved if the emotional force of the belief in the historic idea of Europe could be given a fresh lease of life.

He strongly objected to Europeans who regarded Nato as a firm of nightwatchmen. Nato could only fulfil its role, that of keeping the peace, if all its members made their due contributions towards common security.

"Only the will to self-assertion of democracies in Europe and North America, only their determination to defend themselves can keep Nato capable of action."

On the firm foundation of Nato and the EEC Bonn would, Herr Genscher said, continue its detente policy while realistically assessing its opportunities.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had shown that Moscow was encouraged by US self-restraint to use for its own purposes unrest and processes of colonial decay in the Third World.

This was why detente must not be seen as a substitute for defence preparedness and why the balance of power must be retained as an indispensable prerequisite for realistic detente policy of any kind.

"On the threshold of the 80s, the medium-range missile issue has become a key question. It will show whether a downward balance can be struck, meaning disarmament, or an upward balance, meaning an arms race.

"It will show whether, alternatively, Western Europe accepts the growing superiority of the East and opts for security decoupling from the United States."

His answer was that if you were to accept East bloc supremacy you would inevitably tend towards first conformity, then maybe submission.

The crucial goal of world politics, he said, must be to establish a world order of partnership based on equal rights, mutual advantage and a fair balance of interests.

The West must set against Soviet policy, that of spheres of influence, a concept of cooperation with the Third World states to overcome famine and hardship and to encourage independence and self-determination.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, 21 May 1980)

Bonn envoy in Tel Aviv assures Israel

Bonn hopes to prove a reliable partner of Israel when it comes to a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement combining freedom and justice for all, says Klaus Schütz, West German ambassador in Tel Aviv.

Germans would like to see the people of Israel able to live in peace and justice, he wrote in an article for the magazine of the German-Israeli Association.

His article was printed in an issue of the magazine commemorating the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic reltions between Bonn and Tel Aviv.

The anniversary might be mere coincidence, he continued, "but the fact that the two countries established ties remains an event of historic significance.

"It has substantially encouraged the development of official, unofficial, private and individual ties in all sectors of political, cultural, economic and intellectual life."

In the past, Herr Schütz wrote, there had hardly been a country where the Jewish contribution towards society, state, art, literature, philosophy, medicine and science had been as clear-cut as in Germany.

"There can also not have been a nation in whose name the expulsion of Jews was carried out in a more atrocious manner or the murder of countless Jewish citizens organised more consistently. Both facts denote things held in common, a legacy and a commitment."

A decade and a half after the establishment of diplomatic ties new points held in common had emerged, Herr Schütz said:

"The Federal Republic has been able to beg for reconciliation. That is the Federal government's objective, and I am bound to say, from personal experience, that the German embassy in Tel Aviv works hard at this goal. May the people of Israel continue to help us by meeting us half-way."

An unusually large number of people from both countries had got to know each other and established closer ties in recent years, the former Berlin mayor said:

"The efforts undertaken over the 15 years that have elapsed since ties were established have not been in vain."

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, 21 May 1980)

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■ THE PARTIES

Conservatives' conference fails to reassure

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

The Christian Democrats can hardly be said to have achieved the breakthrough they were hoping for at their election-year party conference in Berlin.

They could well have done with a boost to their self-confidence after their poor performance at the polls in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Despite the rousing hand given Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss, the CDU felt unsure of itself.

Herr Strauss, of course, is Bavarian Premier and leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian branch of the Christian Democrats.

The Christian Democratic Union (CDU) represents the present Bonn Opposition elsewhere in the country, and this October will be the first time a CSU man has led their combined forces in a general election.

As was only to be expected, his speech to CDU delegates in Berlin was rough, tough stuff, but although some delegates were delighted, his words seemed unlikely to have any long-term effect.

Herr Strauss himself is, in the final analysis, the reason why. Christian Democrats remember how he has dealt with the CDU in the past and how he evidently intends to continue treating it.

He decided, for instance, the leave CDU delegates to their own devices until it was his turn to speak at mid-day on the final day of the conference.

It was not a very felicitous decision by a CDU/CSU Shadow Chancellor who is bound to appeal for loyalty from all sections of the party, to demand support for himself and his election campaign and to call on CDU and CSU to close ranks.

A man who is as contemptuous as he is of the larger of the two parties can hardly expect to meet with much support in return.

The CDU accordingly makes a show of outward solidarity with its Shadow Chancellor, but it cannot be assumed to back him to the hilt and to march in unison behind him.

Instead, the CDU seems pervaded by nostalgia for Helmut Kohl, the man who led it to all but victory in the 1976 general election and is still CDU leader.

Herr Kohl has his strong points and they were painfully missed by delegates in their candidate for Chancellor this time round, Herr Strauss.

Kohl, or so it seemed at Berlin, was seen by CDU delegates as a byword for humanity, nest warmth and fine election results at both national and state assembly level.

Strauss does not conjure visions of cosiness. He stands more for the bid for power. He is associated with going it alone rather than togetherness and with scepticism rather than confidence of success.

Twice in Herr Strauss's speech there was a mention of Herr Kohl, and each time, much to the CDU leader's chagrin, he had to stop in mid-sentence and allow the ovation to take its course.

The applause was meant not for him but for the CDU leader.

Whenever the Christian Democrats dealt with their political adversaries at the conference delegates stood shoulder to shoulder and there was a distinct sense of "us" as opposed to "them."

But differences between them and the Social Democrats are unlikely to keep Christian Democrats united for much longer than until polling day, so rent are they by dissension.

Besides, it is doubtful whether they have enough time between now and 5 October to cast an SPD led by Chancellor Schmidt in the role of a party of socialist revolutionaries with a soft spot for the East.

Herr Schmidt is at the peak of popularity and prestige and he largely offsets any less satisfactory points that may relate to the Social Democratic rank and file.

Yet it was evident at Berlin that Herr Strauss was determined to play this card for all it was worth. The CSU leader wants to knock the SPD Chancellor off his pedestal.

He may well have to do so if the Christian Democrats are to stand an earthly chance of winning the general election, and exaggeration, at times grotesque exaggeration, is the name of the game at this stage of the campaign proceedings.

The duel between Herr Strauss and Herr Schmidt, a contest many people were not looking forward to by any stretch of the imagination, has been in full fling since Herr Strauss's Berlin speech.

It remains to be seen whether the CDU, led by Helmut Kohl, will be willing to follow Herr Strauss when he oversteps the mark, as he surely will.

He already did so on occasion in the course of his Berlin speech, and delegates were delighted, perhaps understandably so at a party conference in a general election year.

Besides, delegates were worried the CDU/CSU might forfeit its role as largest parliamentary party in Bonn come October and election time.

That would be absolutely disastrous for the Opposition. The chances of returning to the government benches in 1984, it not in 1980, would be negligible.

So Herr Strauss holds the key to the Christian Democrats' showing, not only this year but also in four years' time.

Bernd Stadelmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 21 May 1980)



Franz Josef Strauss (left) of the CSU together with his erstwhile rival for the Shadow Chancellorship, Helmut Kohl (CDU) at the party conference in Berlin.

(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

Coalition under all conditions ruled out

The Free Democrats would not form a coalition with the Social Democrats if the latter win a clear majority in the general elections, according to a senior FDP MP.

Wolfgang Mischnick, the party's parliamentary leader, told a Berlin Press conference that he was sure that this view would prevail at the FDP conference to be held in Freiburg.

However Herr Mischnick stressed that, in principle, the party was in favour of coalition with the SPD.

The FDP had to nail its colours to the mast, he said. This was the only way an absolute majority for the Social Democrats could be forestalled.

Herr Mischnick was in Berlin for a two-day session of his Bonn parliamentary party. The agenda included the FDP manifesto, tax cuts and this year's old-age pension increases.

He was not expecting second votes (state list votes that count towards the West German system of proportional representation) to be cast for the FDP by voters whose first preference was another party.

He stressed that the Free Democrats' electoral setback in North Rhine-Westphalia had been a salutary shock and that the FDP would be fighting for every extra vote it could convass from the ranks of either of the two major parties.

If second votes were to be cast for the FDP by voters whose first preference was for another party, he would expect this support to come from SPD voters, not CDU supporters, because the two parties got on well together.

With the 4.9 per cent the FDP polled in the North Rhine-Westphalia state assembly elections still to the forefront of his mind, Herr Mischnick said the FDP was indispensable as a third force in ensuring political stability in West Germany.

Were the Social Democrats to gain an absolute majority in Bonn as well as Düsseldorf they would, he was convinced, encounter difficulties in their own ranks.

But he did not feel the FDP could possibly form a coalition in Bonn with the Christian Democrats, always assuming the opportunity arose.

The CDU/CSU, he said, had done everything in its power to put paid to an atmosphere in which cooperation between them might have been feasible.

Personal attacks by the Christian Democrats were not going to stop the Free Democrats from conducting their campaign with the emphasis on objective arguments.

Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss had accused the FDP of drifting to the left of the political spectrum. Herr Mischnick felt this comment would more appropriately have applied to certain members of the CDU/CSU.

Herr Strauss had, incidentally, tried and failed to enlist FDP support not long ago. Herr Mischnick was still waiting for the Christian Democrats to produce evidence in support of their claim that the FDP had ever endorsed socialist legislation of any kind.

Economic Affairs Minister Lambsdorff, another leading Free Democrat, has gone on record as saying that the FDP objective in the 1980 Bundestag election campaign was both to keep Herr Strauss out of office in Bonn and to prevent an absolute Social Democratic majority.

Were the SPD to gain an absolute majority the country would face a policy of Social Democratic tutelage, red tape and patronising treatment, Count Lambsdorff said in an interview with *Hannoversche Allgemeine*.

The FDP was in favour of Helmut Schmidt as Chancellor but also determined to ensure that there was a liberal keynote to Bonn coalition policies.

They and the Social Democrats disagreed mainly on financial, fiscal and pension policies, in the educational sector and on economic policy.

The FDP was opposed to further steps in the direction of higher tax burdens and adamant in its opposition to equal voting rights for staff and management on the supervisory boards of large companies.

It would immediately introduce equal board membership in the revised version of the worker-director aspect of industrial democracy if it were to hold sole power, Count Lambsdorff said.

The FDP and the CDU/CSU were poles apart, he claimed. The difference between them lay in more than the personality of Herr Strauss, although the CSU leader was symptomatic of the overall climate of opinion within the CDU/CSU.

Herr Strauss had emerged as Shadow Chancellor by dint of blackmail, Count Lambsdorff said, and the way in which he dealt with fellow-members of the CDU/CSU made a coalition with him inconceivable.

Besides, there were profound differences of opinion on political issues, especially foreign policy, between Christian and Free Democrats.

dpa

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 May 1980)

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Aschaffenburg Talks help air points from German-Jewish past

An American Jew at this year's Aschaffenburg Talks said that just two months ago both he and his wife were determined never to return to Germany.

"But then we came after all", he said. "Why?"

The middle-aged man, from Milwaukee, answered his own question, quoting the *Diary of Anne Frank*: "Because I shall always believe in the good in man."

The intimacy of the setting for the talks, the neo-classical theatre in the former second residence city of the Duke of Mainz, makes such a statement appear anything but pretentious.

Together with some 80 other Jews who had been invited by the city, the American attended the Aschaffenburg Talks as a spectator. What he said delineated in a few words the difficulties that continue to plague the relations between two peoples: the Jews and the Germans.

But unlike most participants — primarily politicians, writers and other publicists who have long been engaged in a discussion about the systematic destruction of the Jews by the Nazis — the Milwaukee Jew who addressed the meeting was visibly afraid of any contact with his former fatherland.

The Aschaffenburg Talks are essentially a gigantic attempt to deal with a traumatic chapter of German-Jewish history, to discuss the position of Jews in the Federal Republic of Germany and to delve into German-Israeli relations; and all this 35 years after the end of World War II and one year after *Holocaust* was shown on German television.

TV journalist Guido Knopp, who organised the talks, has once more succeeded in bringing people to Aschaffenburg whose international repute lent the Talks a certain cachet — notwithstanding the fact that not all who had been invited came.

Among the missing were Robert Jungk, Bernt Engelmann, Annemarie Renger, Friedrich Heer, Manes Sperber and Rudolf Augstein. But above all, there was a shortage of young people, who had not been invited.

All of those gathered in Aschaffenburg had consciously experienced the Third Reich. There were Jews from Israel, Britain, Switzerland and Germany; and there were Germans, two of whom had to contend with criticism.

Erlangen University Professor of History Hellmut Diwald came under attack for his *History of the Germans*, and the SPD politician Lenelotte von Bothmer ("I am not against a Jewish state but even so I don't like Zionism") clashed primarily with Israel's first ambassador to Bonn, Asher Ben Natan.

Still, there were no severe clashes because agreement prevailed in principle and no-one denied the extent of the cime against the Jewish people and Israel's right to exist. Arguments were matter-of-fact and free of bias.

Only once did a German and a Jew in the audience protest vehemently: after Werner Nachmann, chairman of the Central Council of German Jews, said that the Germans had known about Hitler's crimes and had done nothing to prevent them. The protesters pointed to the resistance and the dead among Germany's anti-fascists.



J.P. Stern, a Germanist originally from Prague and now living in London, opened the discussion with a lecture on the trauma of German-Jewish history. Stressing the spiritual-intellectual relations between two highly developed groups, he said: "The Jews were like the Germans. Even in the hour of greatest danger they continued to speak the language of those who tortured them."

Schalom Ben Chorin, a Jewish writer now living in Munich, opposed this image of the German Jew which gave the impression that the two peoples had assimilated before the pogrom began. He stressed that the Jews had never given up their identity. Jewry in Germany had always represented a district of its own on the German map.

Efforts to describe the position of Jews in pre-1918 and the Weimar-era German society were coupled with an attempt to fathom why anti-Semitism, which existed throughout Europe, acquired such barbaric traits in Germany.

Professor E.L. Ehrlich, Basel, who had earlier said that the Jews born after 1945 no longer felt as if they were sitting on packed suitcases, said that earlier Jews had never been integrated as citizens. After 1918, when a conflict situation arose, prejudice was unbridled.

Ben Chorin spoke of German perfectionism and of the fact that even the unthinkable was done to perfection.

There were some interesting assessments of the present situation.

Regarding swastika graffitti and the activities of neo-Nazis, Klaus Schütz, Bonn ambassador to Israel, said that latent anti-Semitism still exists in Germany although very few Jews lived in this country.

Professor Ehrlich stressed that the number of Jews in this country (about 30,000) was too small to serve as a scapegoat.

There was general outrage at the activities of *Deutsche Nationalzeitung* (a rightist newspaper).

CDU politician Erik Blumenfeld compared the paper to the *Stürmer* (this was an anti-Jewish newspaper during the Nazi era) and demanded legal steps to ban it.

Though there was a general tendency to recognise the fact that German-Jewish relations were on their way to normalisation, there was a great reluctance to go so far as to say: "It can never happen again."

Another major issue that concerns the Jews is the relationship between Germans and Israelis, which has suffered since Germany stepped up its political contacts with the PLO and since Bonn officially spoke of the "self-determination right of Palestinians."

Asher Ben Natan said that any Ger-

Continued on page 5

Frankfurt hosts survivors of Nazi pogrom

A group of 106 Jews who lived in Frankfurt before the war have visited their former home town — as guests of the city council.

All survived the Nazi pogrom and are living in either Israel or the United States.

Frankfurt Mayor Walter Wallmann welcomed his guests at the airport, greeting each of them individually. Most of these former Frankfurters are over 80.

The mayor said that the city not only wanted to meet its moral obligations but also express its thanks to the 30,000 Jews who lived there before the Nazi era and made an outstanding cultural and economic contribution.

Some DM220,000 were set aside by the council to bring these people back, all expenses paid.

This is now to be institutionalised and a similar group will visit Frankfurt every year.

The programme includes sightseeing tours, visits to theatres, a reception at the Rathaus, an excursion by ship on the Main River and a visit to Worms where an old synagogue has been rebuilt and is now open to worshippers.

Frankfurt's Jewish community, which now again has some 5,000 members, was one of the most important in Europe in former centuries.

Among its members in the old days were Mayer Amschel Rothschild, the founder of the Rothschild Bank, the poet Ludwig Börne, the philosopher Martin Buber and the Nobel Prize winner for Medicine, Paul Ehrlich.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 May 1980)

A stable State 'that feels threatened'

The Federal Republic of Germany is a stable state, yet it considers itself threatened as no other country does, French publicist Alfred Grosser told a meeting in Frankfurt.

It was a special characteristic of this country that it nurtures excessive fears of terrorism.

Grosser was addressing the 7th Römerberg Talks in the Frankfurt Rathaus.

Topics at the Talks were the national identity of the German, the citizen's relationship to the state and our youth's dissatisfaction with the state. The general theme was "The Federal Republic of Germany — A Republic Without Citizens?"

The meeting was attended by many prominent publicists, politicians and scientists from Germany and abroad.

Grosser and the Swiss writer Adolf Muschg, looking at Germany from the vantage point of foreigners, stressed the special position of this country as a partial state which is seen by foreigners as an anomaly because it has renounced reunification and national identity.

The Federal Republic of Germany is not a normal European country, said Grosser, because it has forgone sovereignty and is not willing to shoulder responsibility in international politics.

The Römerberg Talks, which never shirk tackling controversial issues, for the first time this year delved into the question: Is the Federal Republic a republic without citizens?

Frankfurt city's cultural affairs expert, Hilmar Hoffmann, said in his opening address that in the Federal Republic of Germany, provisonally founded 30 years ago, the citizens have not yet acquired the necessary self confidence.

Herr Hoffmann: "This state is not only not loved by many but large parts of the youth do not recognise it as their own."

Frankfurt Mayor Walter Wallmann said that the search for a national identity was made more difficult by the fact that our republic has provided no yardsticks and no aims.

Wallmann: "The understanding of statehood in the communist countries is taken for granted and has become sacrosanct while Western democracies are plagued by self-torturing scruples and doubts."

Professor Christian Graf Krockow, of Göttingen University, said that Germany's state-consciousness was marked by a lack of symbols. He called Prussia a state without a statehood idea which replaced this shortcoming by efficiency and a sense of duty.

Rüdiger Altmann, of Bonn, said that official Germany was seeking no ideals to emulate and that all it was after was values.

The Germans, he said, were marked by the experience of failure.

Professor Richard Löwenthal, of Berlin, attributed the identity problem to the fragmentation of the German past, especially since the Reformation. According to him, Germany has always been torn between East and West.

He sees the Federal Republic as the realisation of Western values and way of life.

The more than 30 speakers put forward several solutions that could point the way out of this identity crisis.

Erich Fried, from London, suggested "thorough reassessment of German history."

Matthias Wissmann, chairman of the young members' branch of the CDU, called for a "reorientation of values between the East bloc's dictated values and the West's reluctance to assign values.

The longest discussion was devoted to the practical application of democracy in this country.

Oskar Negt, a representative of the "New Left" said: "Four major scandals in our society prevent the people from participating in shaping democracy: the lack of co-determination at work; the dispossession of sensual-spiritual means of production by the mass media; the fallacious understanding of radicalism as the root of all reform; and the poverty of such large groups as the handicapped and the homeless which have been excluded from the distribution of wealth mechanism."

CDU politician Richard von Weizsäcker contradicted him: "Naturally, systematic democracy gives rise to criticism as is the case when parties impose their tutelage on the citizenry or when the public service swallows up ever larger portions of the nation's tax revenues.

"But, on the other hand, the citizen's right to vote forces the parties to compete for the voter's favour. This democratic interplay provides scope for control and change by the citizen."

Albert Bechtold

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 19 May 1980)

■ PEOPLE IN POLITICS

The quiet man behind the Chancellor



The role of Berndt von Staden, head of external security and intra-German relations at the Chancellors office, has never before been so important.

This is mainly because of European-American problems, in particular those between Bonn and Washington.

It is not only his profound knowledge of German-American relations that makes him so valuable.

It is also his great circumspection. He is a busy man, but in a quiet, methodical way.

This is what the Chancellor likes. The wheels are well greased and turn soundlessly.

When von Staden elaborates on a point, the information is presented with such equanimity he gives the impression that world politics is idyllic.

Obviously, he is now greatly benefiting from the enormous fund of experience gathered during his seven years as German Ambassador in Washington.

There, his style contrasted with that of the usual Washington scene. Though he kept an open house he was not the backslapping type. Instead, he sought direct contacts and private discussions with policy makers — especially the Washington Administration's Germany experts.

This led to masterpieces of precision in his analyses and background reports which provided reliable guidelines even when Jimmy Carter's emotional flip-flop policy started to confuse Bonn.

Von Staden's manner of speaking is marked by great caution and great intensity in its devotion to the subject under discussion. His manner of speaking is unadorned and reminiscent of the book his wife Wendelgard wrote on her experience in Nazi Germany when she was a young girl.

It is easy to imagine the impression this Baltic nobleman made on many Americans. He was something of a late representative of a bygone Europe. His attraction lay in his aloofness.

And yet he was inwardly anything but aloof. On the contrary; his hosts felt that he understood their country and, indeed, had loved it since the days between 1963 and 1968 when he was an senior member of the Washngton Embassy. He considers that time his formative years in which he learned to see the world through the eyes of a superpower.

His departure from Washington in 1979 was something of a triumph because Secretary of State Vance himself delivered the parting address. Shortly before, von Staden had received the Georgetown University Prize for "outstanding diplomatic leadership qualities". He was the first foreigner to be thus honoured.

The Afghanistan crisis broke out shortly after his appointment to the Chancellery, and a shadow was cast on German-American relations. It was then that the decision to appoint him to the post proved a lucky dip — especially in view of the others who had been shortlisted for it.

There were also those who wondered whether a 60-year-old would be equal to the stress that goes with the job.

In the beginning, it seemed as if their fears would be confirmed — especially since some people got the impression that the new department head wanted to do everythng himself and that he monopolised access to the chancellor.

But his way of working was simply characteristic of his strictness with himself and his throughness, which is marked by attention to the smallest detail.



Just between you and me . . . Berndt von Staden and Chancellor Schmidt.
(Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

Everything is on an even keel now. His department acts as a team under sound leadership. What remains is the stress, although von Staden himself brushes this aside.

Contrary to a widespread view, the Chancellor's need for advice on foreign policy has not diminished in our age of summits and close personal contacts. It has increased, and his aides are saddled not only with operative work but with conceptual tasks as well.

They have to coordinate between the Chancellery and the various Ministries, ranging from Defence to Development Aid and, of course, the Foreign Office.

Needless to say, von Stadens and his team's activities are closely watched and there is many a subtle tension to be overcome. And, most important, the world situation is more explosive than ever before.

There are, however, compensation. It is deeply satisfying to counsel the Chancellor in such a tricky situation — although Herr von Staden would never put it this way himself.

Instead, he speaks of a "privilege" and a "crowning of his career".

Von Staden has been interested in foreign affairs since his schooldays. He joined the Foreign Office in 1951, serving at the German Embassy in Brussels and, later, as head of the Soviet desk in Bonn.

This was followed by a stint at the EEC Commission where he became the personal assistant of its then president, Hallstein.

His Brussels period was as formative as that in Washington before he became ambassador.

He was then recalled to Bonn where he headed various political departments. That was at the time when negotiations with Moscow and Warsaw were in full swing.

In early 1973 he was appointed Bonn's ambassador to Washington, having dealt before with all aspects of world politics.

He has never made any bones about his favouring the foreign policy course of the present social-liberal government. Willy Brandt's and Walter Scheel's *Ostpolitik* is seen by him as an enormous political achievement because it would have been impossible to live with an unprotected political flank. Generally, he finds that "this country did very well."

Such outspoken statements have led to misguided suspicions that he got where he is because he had the right party credentials.

But this is not so. He is simply a civil servant in the old tradition, doing his best.

It would not be wrong to label him as a liberal conservative, free of prejudices and devoted to *realpolitik*.

This is coupled with his high esteem for the professionalism of this government and character traits which he has in common with the Chancellor: though he is a quick thinker he takes a long time to make a decision, wanting to weigh all aspects.

This has paid off handsomely in our troubled days, as have his American connections.

Herr von Staden can get a straight line to President Carter's National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and elaborate on such a delicate matter as Bonn's stance towards Brezhnev's invitation to Schmidt. Apart from differences on specific issues, his personal relations with Mr Brzezinski are good.

And then there was the delicate situation after the abortive attempt to free the American hostages in Tehran when Bonn was torn between dissatisfaction and solidarity. It was Herr von Staden who, being able to think as Americans do, warned againt labelling the action "military". Instead he spoke of "a humanitarian action" — a terminology later adopted by the Chancellor.

The policy of circumspection and patience with which Bonn tried to contain the crisis also bears the handwriting of Berndt von Staden.

Carl-Christian Kaiser

(Die Zeit, 5 May 1980)

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man-Jewish dialogue that did not include Israel was pointless. Though Germany need no go along with any particular decision in day-to-day politics, Israel expected understanding in Bonn.

This view, which was shored up by the belief that German-Israeli relations are of a special nature (Gerhard Löwenthal and Lenelotte von Bothmer), remained unopposed.

Austria's Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and his spectacular Middle East policy came under heavy attack.

And Frau von Bothmer, who said that the Arabs in the occupied territories might have to foot the bill in the end, met with understanding only from Erich Fried, a writer living in London.

Ben Natan and Nachmann were all ears when Klaus Schütz explained Bonn's position.

He said nothing about the contention that the Arabs use their oil to blackmail Germany. All he said was that we must accept the position as it is.

The PLO is a test case for Israel regarding its relations with other countries. Jehuda Amichai, an Israeli writer originally from Würzburg, put it this way: "In 1935 I was told 'go Palestine you dirty Jew.' That's exactly what I did. But now I'm told 'get out of Palestine you dirty Jew'."

This is exactly what the Israelis will not do.

Roderich Reifenrath

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 20 May 1980)

■ INDUSTRY

Steel faces crisis as profits drop and output is set to follow

The steel industry faces serious problems. Profits are dropping and output is likely to follow.

This dark outlook follows a promising performance last year when crude steel production rose by 11.6 per cent to 46m tons.

Problems of the industry were reflected in the tone of Herbert Gienow, chief executive of Klöckner-Werke AG, at the annual meeting.

His tone was decidedly less buoyant than just a couple of months before when he told journalists that he expected a balanced performance in 1979/80.

That prediction seems to be remote. All steel mills expect to produce less crude steel this year than in 1979. Opinions only differ concerning the extent of the decline.

Westdeutsche Landesbank in its latest forecast anticipates a drop of 3 per cent — and nobody has contradicted this forecast.

Assuming the bank is right, this year's production will be 44.6m tons of which 11.6m were produced in the first three months. This leaves a total of 33m tons or 3.67m as a monthly average for the rest of the year — a drop of slightly more than 5 per cent against the first quarter.

And the longer output remains at the present relatively high level the ruder will the awakening be in the months to follow.

But what worries the business is not so much the drop in production as the losses they are sustaining at present.

The steel mills are faced with an entirely new experience. While, in the past, output and prices went up or down simultaneously — which led to extreme fluctuations of profits — in the past few months only output rose while profits stagnated or went down.

At the same time costs are rising more than ever before:

- Ore is up 30 per cent;
- Heavy heating oil 50 per cent; and
- Labour costs more than 8 per cent against last year.

Granted, prices are also rising but they lag behind the cost.

While the oil industry has come to take it for granted that price increases of crude are passed on to the consumer, steel just has not managed to do this.

Thyssen, the biggest in the business, has had to come to terms with the fact that production costs per ton of rolled steel have risen by 7.8 per cent. This means that, according to sales manager Heinz Kriwet, per ton prices would have to rise by DM47. But the actual price increases are DM11 short of target. Given an annual output of 11m tons of rolled steel, the loss amounts to more than DM120m.

Considering that Thyssen is one of the most economical producers, the others are bound to be in an even worse fix.

But while Thyssen admits that it lost money in the first six months of the business year 1979/80 (from October 1979 to March 1980) where bulk steel is concerned, Salzgitter chief executive Ernst Piper denies any losses for his company. He says that business was profitable during that period.

Herr Piper does, however, admit that performance is deteriorating from



month to month. For the year as a whole he is anything but optimistic and speaks of added costs of about DM100m which cannot be fully passed on to the consumer.

When asked about the reasons for this development, all steel men speak of subsidies and idle production capacities.

Of course, they always point to the competitor. Thyssen's sales manager Kriwet, for instance, says that the output of his group has dropped by 21.2 per cent against the record year 1974 while that of other German mills dropped only 9.9 per cent.

The company's Chairman of the Board Dieter Spethmann, when asked why this is so, says that his competitors at Hoesch had accepted subsidies.

The Hoesch executives, on the other hand, point to the nationalised mills in Italy and Britain and to the amply subsidised French and Belgian companies that do not have to pay for losses out of their own pockets.

Steel magnate Willi Korf, with interests in Germany and the United States, has the answer at his fingertips: "If governments stopped subsidising the industry, companies would either go bust or they would have to raise prices by DM100 a ton; and many find it hard to reach a decision one way or another."

Another thing Herr Korf said recently is bound to rub German steel producers the wrong way: "There is no such thing as a world steel crisis. What we now have is a European steel crisis. While 1979 was a poor year for Europe, American and Japanese companies made profits of a magnitude the Europeans can only dream of."

Herr Korf said that the reason for Europe's lag was too many unprofitable mills that cannot compete given the present exchange rates.

He does not believe in excessive production capacities as the culprit. He says it is clearly wrong to list Germany's capacity as 69m tons. After all, when the industry ran full steam in 1974 it only just managed to produce 54m tons. And many plants have been shut down since then.

"If Germany manages to produce 54m tons again it will have achieved a major feat," he said.

"In a few years the gap between supply and demand would close. Like Klöckner boss Gienow, Korf holds that demand will outstrip supply due to inadequate production capacities. This is so because few new mills are being built due to excessive investment requirements.

But a wave of investment could occur if there were technological breakthroughs that would reduce production costs. Unfortunately, there are none in sight notwithstanding the fact that Klöckner has just caused a stir with a new energy-saving process. But the new method still has to prove itself and is more suitable for the revamping of obsolete mills than for new ones.

Korf's theory that steel will be in short supply is likely to prove correct and so is his contention that there will be a price explosion in the steel sector.

But then, he has held these views since 1975 without having them confirmed.

For the steel industry as a whole such an optimistic outlook resembles the prospect of life after death. But its problems are here and now: Should developments in the automobile and construction industry take the anticipated course, the steelmakers will be faced with a slump in the second half of the year.

And as if this were not enough, there is more trouble in the offing. The greatest danger comes from America where US Steel has filed an anti-dumping suit against most European mills. The Carter Administration has responded by suspending the trigger price system for imports and thus creating a state of lawlessness in the business.

While in the trigger-price system import prices were fixed by the government, using Japanese production costs as criteria and stipulating that certain fixed prices may not be undercut, now anybody can ship steel to the United States at any price.

But in doing so he risks having to pay up later if US Steel wins its lawsuit. In such a case, the Department of Commerce would fix a fair value for imports and the foreign suppliers would have to pay the difference.

Exporters reluctant to risk shipments

A temporary ruling is expected in mid-October at the latest. Theoretically the Europeans could therefore continue shipping any quantity until mid-June because countervailing duties can only be imposed 90 days in arrears. But the court ruling could come before October.

As a result, exporters are reluctant to ship to the United States. European mills realise that, in view of their higher production costs compared with Japan, they could be hard hit by the American ruling. They now hope that the United States will revert to the trigger price system after all, and Korf intends to do all he can to bring this about. His American group is now suing for the re-introduction of this mechanism, which favours Europe.

But even if the system were to be reintroduced it would only prevent an even worse setback. The slump itself cannot be halted.

There was some gallows humour in what Thyssen's Klaus Kuhn said: "Perhaps a boom will break out somewhere after all."

Heinz-Günter Kemmer

(Die Zeit, 16 May 1980)

New coal age predicted for this decade

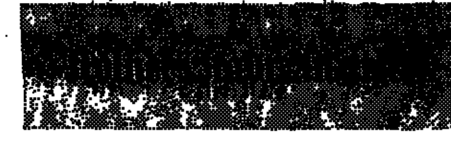
Coal will account for two thirds of the anticipated increase in energy demand by the year 2,000, according to an international study.

To achieve this, global production will need to be tripled or quadrupled from its present 2.5bn tons a year, and world trade in it will need to increase from 200m tons to between 800m and 1,000m tons, a year.

Herbert B. Giesel, of the German Anthracite Association, summed up the findings of the study, which was compiled by experts from 16 countries including China and Poland, by saying that a new coal age will begin in the mid-1980s.

This additional coal is to be used primarily to generate heat and electricity.

According to the study, coal consumption in the Federal Republic of Germany will rise from the present 100m to 150m tons by the year 2,000. This figure includes the 20m tons for coal liquefaction.



Imports — especially of coal for power stations — must rise considerably. The study assumes that they will grow from 7m tons a year to 20m tons.

Coke consumption, on the other hand, is not expected to rise. Much of this consumption is accounted for by the steel industry.

The necessary global investments are estimated at 100bn dollars. But so far there have been no binding undertakings to invest that sum.

The study also points to environmental problems since most of the coal is mined in economical opencast mines.

There are also no binding undertakings to buy the additional coal. But such undertakings are the precondition for the exploration of new deposits and the construction of costly transportation facilities, etc. Moreover, there is a shortage of freighters. Some 1,000 extra ships will be needed.

About 90 per cent of present coal reserves are held by four countries: the Soviet Union (45 per cent), the United States (24 per cent), China (13 per cent) and Australia (6 per cent.

The 60 per cent of the reserves that can be exploited economically with today's technology are also in these countries.

These figures represent only a fraction of the geologically known deposits, but they correspond to 250 times the production of 1977.

Of the European countries, Poland has the largest share of accessible reserves (9 per cent). Next is Britain with 6.8 per cent and West Germany with 5.1 per cent.

The glowing picture presented by the study is borne out by the growing interest of the major oil companies in coal.

The American oil giants have already secured adequate coal deposits, and Shell and BP are following suit.

A. Kratz/Spielhoff

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 14 May 1980)

■ LABOUR

Programme to 'humanise' workplace comes under criticism

A Bonn-financed programme to "humanise" conditions of work has come under heavy criticism.

The Opposition in the Bundestag has claimed that the attendant social research was not practice-oriented enough, that the programme's only aim was to give labour a greater say and that the business community's interest in participating in this type of project was diminishing steadily.

In its reply, the Government conceded that many researchers were not sufficiently familiar with the realities at work. But it rejected all other charges: co-determination in industry was laid down in law and the number of new humanisation projects was growing (from 48 in 1978 to 56 in 1979).

But many researchers are also dissatisfied with the programme. In a study on industrial medicine, recently published by the German Research Society, experts deplored the fact that, due to humanisation programmes, industrial medicine now concerned itself primarily with concrete issues in specific companies and branches of industry. Free research into basic problems of labour, on the other hand, has been criminally neglected, the study says.

It is, however, unjustified to blame this development only on government humanisation projects.

Ministry explains the many difficulties

Using specific examples, the Research Ministry, which financed the disputed programme jointly with the Labour Ministry, explained the difficulties that had to be overcome in the process.

To drive home a point, journalists were given an opportunity to listen to a tape recording made at the Duisburg Thyssen works. The recording was made in a sheet metal plant where the sheets were cut to marketable size.

The noise, deafening even at the best of times, was punctuated by ear-shattering cannon-like sounds every few seconds. These actually caused physical pain.

In the course of a project that extended from 1974 to 1978, researchers tried to track down the source of the noise and introduce suitable abatement measures. One-quarter of the DM1.6m cost was borne by the company while the other three-quarters were financed jointly by the Bonn Research Ministry (DM665,000) and the European Coal and Steel Community (DM535,000).

It turned out that much of the noise was caused by the conveyor rollers on which the sheet metal was transported to the mammoth scissors for cutting. Other sources were the pneumatic machinery used in cleaning the sheets and the stacking process of the finished product.

But by far the worst noise — sounding like an explosion — was made when the scissors lifted the sheets for cutting and the parts cut off dropped back onto the conveyor rollers.

A total remodelling of the 150-metre assembly line, complete with the installation of noise-abating equipment and



the supplementing of steel rollers by a rubber-coated variety, succeeded in reducing the former noise level of 117 decibels to less than 90 decibels.

The importance of noise abatement was driven home recently by Professor Albert Kuhlmann, who said that 3,448 cases of hearing defects due to exposure to noise were registered in 1977. This type of deafness, which has been recognised as an occupational disease since 1963, now ranks at the top of the official list of such ailments (a total of 53).

Another humanisation programme that was carried out in a machine and screw manufacturing plant in Peine and that ended in 1979 was also aimed at noise abatement. But here the objective was not set from the very beginning.

Instead, the researcherrs made the workers themselves come forward with proposals to improve conditions. Supervised by sociologists of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, some 50 workers were asked to explore possibilities of improvement and present suggestions.

The outcome was surprising and encouraging: 85 per cent of the work force took an active part in the project, coming up with proposals for noise abatement, newly designed recreation rooms, improved accessibility to the controls of various types of machinery and, indeed, the complete restructuring of machinery.

Some of the proposals have been adopted, and now the thread of a screw is no longer cut by pushing a heavy lever but by an automatic device that relieves the worker of the strenuous pushing. Heavy metal waste that previously had to be carted away in boxes is now disposed of by a subterranean conveyor belt installation.

The project was financed by the Research Ministry to the tune of DM3.9m while the company contributed DM600,000.

There can be no doubt that some of the money was invested sensibly — as for instance in those cases where semi-skilled workers were given an opportunity of promotion to better paying jobs (as in machine maintenance and the adjustment of machines).

But some of the money was wasted, as for instance that portion that was spent to coat metal containers with plastic to reduce the noise caused by the finished screws falling into the containers. This required no special programme and should have been done by the company's own engineers and with the company's own money.

Still, the Peine experiment has been greatly beneficial. After the humanisation programme at the company came to an end, four new project groups were formed to submit proposals for improvements in specific departments.

Though these proposals can no longer be prepared and discussed in seminars, every member of the four project groups is given an hour a week off to think. A special agreement has been drafted to regulate the workers' participation in shaping their jobs.

These examples show where the main aims of the humanisation programme lie. They are: more safety and less stress combined with more opportunity for personality development through a say in shaping the place of work.

But there is another aspect which has given rise to much criticism: many companies take advantage of the programme to automate and rationalise with government money. *Michael Globig*

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 9 May 1980)

Metalworkers seek principle of 'transferable skill'

The Metalworkers Union's future collective bargaining will aim to secure the "social status" of its members.

Anyone who has at some point in his life qualified as a skilled worker — and be it as a baker — is to be paid at the rate of skilled workers when transferring to the metal industry.

Said one union official ironically: "The Cologne Ford works is on its way to becoming the city's biggest butchery because no-one else employs as many fully trained butchers."

The ultimate aim is to come to grips with the changed working conditions brought about by microelectronics.

Some 300,000 jobs will become redundant in the next five years due to automation, rising to 2.4m in 10 years.

An estimated 2.5m jobs will change their characteristics and qualification requirements due to technological change.

According to the Metalworkers Union, the vocational qualifications originally acquired by a worker give him a right to a certain status. And this status must be secured through collective bargaining. In fact, the union aims at consolidating the vast number of officially recognised trades and vocations into a few fields of work.

The Construction Workers Union has similar ambitions. It considers it intolerable that of the 100,000 housepainters working in this industry, there are 30,000 apprentices who stand no chance of getting a job in their trade later.

The Metalworkers' slogan is: Once a skilled worker always a skilled worker.

The unions' collective bargaining will try to reduce the vast pay differences based on the demands placed on individual workers on the basis of criteria evolved in the 1960s.

In the 1980s, union representatives say, entirely new wage deals will have to be worked out due to far-reaching technical and organisational changes. Less stress and less noise or dust are no longer to mean less money for the workers.

According to Hans Janssen of the Metalworkers Union, pay and social status must not be permitted to decrease only because technical progress has led to a rise in productivity while the workers' skills and abilities have remained the same. Employers must be made to undertake to provide further training for their workers and then pay them accordingly.

But what can be realised fairly easily with skilled workers is much more difficult to achieve with the semi skilled who have have acquired their skills on the job.

The union holds that one way out is to issue workers without formal training with special diplomas for the skills they acquired on the job. These diplomas would then guarantee them the same status as that of a formally skilled worker.

While these problems can be solved where they concern blue-collar workers in the manufacturing industry who are paid on a piecework basis, the white-collar workers and their blue-collar counterparts who work on a time basis remain subject to the "labour intensification strategies" of the employers.

As a result, it is up to the union to work out deals for the latter group in which the performance expected of them would be kept at a tolerable level.

Another major point of the union wage policy in the 1980s is the further reduction of the working time. A 35-hour week remains one of the main objectives. But the 1979 labour disputes have dashed the hope that this will be achieved soon. *Gertraut Witt*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 May 1980)

MARINE BIOLOGY

Life underwater with Hans Fricke, the do-it-yourself fish expert

His home is the ocean, the tropics to be exact, and his life is dedicated to research. Hans W. Fricke from Aschering, near Starnberg, Bavaria, is an ethologist of international repute.

He seldom returns to Germany, instead spending months at a time diving in the Red Sea. The Gulf of Aqaba, where he studies life among the reefs, has become his second home.

He finances his research by writing articles for magazines, books and TV. He is one of the few scientists who makes ends meet without a penny in public-sector subsidies.

He feels his independence is worthwhile making sacrifices for: "Since I finance everything I do myself I can afford to work on projects that give me pleasure."

Hans Fricke, 38, is a visiting professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was born in Schönebeck on the Elbe but now lives with his wife Simone and two-year-old daughter Anja in a farmhouse in another village, population 250.

A dark green Land Rover is parked in front of the house. He takes it with him on his expeditions.

At the age of 11 young Hans first swam underwater in an arm of the Elbe, taking photographs of his school friends. He first toured the Red Sea, on foot, at 19, while still a schoolboy.

He earned the money for this first tour on a newspaper round in West Berlin. A year later, aged 20, he cycled to Alexandria and Cairo. Another year later, he drove by moped to the diving areas along the Egyptian and Israeli coasts. By this time he was a zoology student in Berlin.

He later switched to faster vehicles — motorcycles and cars. But his destination never changed. The Gulf of Aqaba remains "his" research area.

At the Max Planck Ethology Institute in Seewiesen, Bavaria, he wrote a PhD thesis for Konrad Lorenz on, characteristically, the biology of the Gorgon's Head, a small Red Sea creature that lives on a nocturnal diet of plankton.

He then did research in Florida, followed by diving expeditions all over the world.

On one of his journeys to Israel he met a Swiss girl, Simone. Three months later they married. They bought a caravan that is permanently based on the shores of the Red Sea. It is their home when they stay in the Sinai.

Fricke will hear nothing of zoology department aquariums where other scientists observe their experimental animals from tropical waters. He works out in the open:

"When you know how the fish live in their natural habitat you feel sorry to see them spoilt to death in an aquarium. I certainly don't feel any sense of doting attachment to animals."

In an aquarium, he explains as an ethologist, fish suffer from stress. In captivity there is thus no way in which their social structure can be studied.

He is determined to observe animals solely in their natural habitat and goes to great lengths to do so. He spent 38 months studying the behaviour of the Amphiprion, a sea anemone fish, off the Aqua Sport Diving Centre near Eilat, on the Red Sea.

He first spent his time just impartially looking on as the fish went through their daily routine. Then he deliberately changed their environment and in the process discovered a previously unknown mechanism that regulates their group life.

The Amphiprion joins forces for life with the sea anemone, a plankton-eating zoophyte. Their partnership is a symbiosis that brings considerable benefits for both.

All attackers are stung by the arms of the sea anemone, but the Amphiprion itself is immune by virtue of a protective agent and can retreat into its host's arms when danger is at hand.

The fish returns the favour by playing a watchdog role and chasing anemone-eating predators out of the vicinity.

So their partnership lasts all the fish's life. The fish makes "knock, knock" warning sounds that can clearly be heard and furiously defends "its" anemone from others of its species.

The fish and its mate perform their mating rites inside the anemone's shell, and it is here that they lay about 500 rust-brown eggs up to 13 times a year.

Young anemone fish that drift in through the reef make a home for themselves in just such an anemone after hatching from their eggs and growing to the appropriate size.

Fricke the diver and zoologist spent years observing the behaviour of anemone fish off the Red Sea coast at Eilat before he hit on the subterfuge that governs their group life.

Amphiprions are born androgynous and only the highest-ranking fish in the group develops into a female. The others are so oppressed by the dominant pair that they are incapable of sexual development.

The males do not come into their own until the female dies. Within 24 hours of her death her former male mate is transformed into a female and, as Fricke has shown under the microscope, is capable of reproduction.

The male mate's position is then up for grabs and taken by the toughest customer from among the ranks of the young fish. But for him too the foremost goal in life is to become a female.

What benefits does the anemone fish derive from this sex change? Were Amphiprions born as males and females, Fricke says, they would have to seek out a partner of the opposite sex at mating time.

This is fraught with danger. As soon as the fish has left its anemone, predators lie in wait round every coral corner.

So the solution chosen is that mates stay together in monogamous partnership. When the female dies the male takes her place and a young fish moves up in role and status.

Fricke has been able to induce this sex change artificially by removing the female. The female fish cannot change back into a male; once a female, always a female.

How does Fricke finance this protracted, costly research?

Until 1974 he was a staff member of the Seewiesen Max Planck Institute, where his research was subsidised by means of grants from the Scientific Research Association.

He has since abandoned this manner of financing his work. "When I apply to foundations for a grant towards projects of this kind I have to acknowledge receipt of every little item. In the end the only conclusion you can reach is to forget the whole idea."

That is why the Munich zoologist now raises funds himself for his research and his livelihood. Once a year he shoots a 45-minute firm for TV. He also publishes articles and pictures of the reef in magazines.

"I only do that to earn money with which to finance my research proj[ects]," he adds.

His latest major undertaking is the construction of an underwater hous[e in] the Gulf of Aqaba. This 23-tonne [colos]sus is sunk on the seabed, 11 m[etres] underwater and 5 kilometres out fro[m ...].

It contains a chamber 14 cubic m[etres] in size where Fricke and his ass[istants] can observe the underwater world [of the] Red Sea much longer and better [than when] they had to don diving gear befo[re each] and every session.

Creatures that live on the cor[al] have now grown accustomed to th[e] intruder; it has become a part of [the] environment.

Fricke paid for this underwater [labora]tory out of his own pocket. To[gether] with his friend Gerd Helmers, a[n] engineer from Eilat, and several [...] he personally welded the sheets of [...] millimetre steel together.

He painted the laboratory, in[stalled] electrical equipment and named i[t ...]ritica. Ethologist Fricke had no [choice] but to do it all himself.

"If I had approached a foundation [and] said I had the opportunity, together [with] an extremely competent man, of b[uild]ing a submarine laboratory, they w[ould] have consulted experts in Germany.

"The experts would have said I [must] be mad. It couldn't be done. In Ge[rma]ny a day's diving costs DM30,000."

But it was done. Hans Fricke w[rote] 200 begging letters to companies [and] private individuals. They supplied [him] with equipment ranging from nuts [and] bolts to a closed circuit TV camera.

His underwater laboratory has [now] lain on the bed of the Red Sea fo[r a] year and a half. And it works. It [cost] him all of DM30,000, and running [costs] amount to less than $8 a day.

In comparison the Heligoland, a [...] marine laboratory run in the A[...] under government auspices, co[st] DM30,000 a day to run and has si[nce] been scrapped.

Why does Fricke go to all this trou[ble] and undergo such hardship? Does he [do] his research for his readers and the [vie]wing public, or does he do it [for] science?

"I work strictly for myself," he [ex]plains. "For me only and for no[-one] else. I am motivated solely by my curiosity and I enjoy keeping my e[yes] open. But unfortunately very few sci[en]tists admit that this is due to a p[...] human impulse."

Günther K. H. Zupanc

(Die Zeit, 16 May 1[980])

Günther Zupanc, a 21-year-old bi[ology] student, has won a DM3,000 [...] journalism award sponsored by the [...] Research Ministry for this article.



TRANSPORT

Accident statistics still back the car safety belt

Since wearing car safety belts became compulsory in West Germany, motorists have been periodically upset by reports of injuries being caused by belts.

Individual instances have been cited in many cases which convey the impression that wearing the belt can have fatal consequences in a crash.

The seat-belt syndrome was identified as long ago as in 1961 in the United States. The term is used in connection with all manner of injuries that may result from wearing a belt on impact.

They include injuries to the abdomen, the spinal column and the hipbone. As early as the 60s isolated fatalities resulting from the wearing of belts were reported in the United States.

The deaths were from serious neck injuries caused by poorly fitting two-point belts, which are fairly uncommon nowadays anyway.

Work has also been published on throat, thorax and stomach injuries to belt wearers in the German-speaking world, but injuries of this kind are extremely infrequent and usually the result of using sub-standard belts.

The belts worn turn out to have been old two-point belts, or too loose-fitting at the hips or shoulders; either that or the anchoring was faulty or headrests were missing.

Injuries have been known to occur as a result of the impact in really bad crashes, but they are attributable more to the seriousness of the crash than to the belt itself.

Statistically it has been shown that the risk of sustaining more serious injuries by wearing a belt in a crash rather than by not doing so is fairly minute — a mere 0.65 per cent.

It must be remembered that in a head-on crash at as little as 15km/h, or 9mph, a gravitational acceleration of up to 2 g is generated on impact.

At this rate only a trained athlete can hold back with sufficient strength to avoid being catapulted against the dashboard, the windscreen, the doorframe or the steering wheel.

In collisions with a stationary obstacle at 40km/h, or 25mph, up to 33 g can be generated, and even a well-fitting three-point safety belt and headrest cannot ensure a modicum of protection at speeds on impact of more than 50 to 60km/h, or 30 to 35mph.

At higher collision speeds injuries are almost certain to occur even when belts are worn. But when belts are worn there is no reason why crashes should be fatal at speeds much below 100km/h, or 60mph.

A survey by Professor Spann of Munich University forensic medicine department covering thousands of car crashes indicates that there is a 10 times greater risk of serious injury when you don't wear a safety belt than when you do.

By the same token, belt shunners are four times more likely to sustain fatal injuries in a car crash than belt-users.

In even the most serious category of traffic accidents safety belts only cause extra injuries in 1.3 per cent of cases, while comparable results are coming in from a Freiburg University Hospital survey.

The survey of car crash victims' injuries at the hospital's emergency ward is still in progress, but so far broken hip bones were 30 to 70-per-cent less frequent among belt-wearers, depending on where they were sitting.

Broken thigh bones were about three times less frequent, concussion occurred in only about half as many cases and injuries to softer parts of the body were four times less frequent.

Serious abdominal injuries and chest and neck trouble almost invariably only occurred among drivers and passengers who were not belted when the crash happened.

Nearly all victims who did not use a belt said they would in future.

Asked why they had not troubled to fasten their belts this time, most said they were afraid of being trapped.

But belts fitted out with automatic safety latches and reliable snap-open devices for use as soon as the vehicle has come to a halt ought to induce and much higher percentage of drivers and passengers to use them.

If more were to belt up, there might well be a substantial decline in the number of serious consequences of accidents on West German roads.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 18 May 1980)

A tram that is not a tram

A vehicle that can function either freely just like a normal bus or run on tracks much the same as a tram has made its first appearance on the roads.

The bus, which looks at first glance like a conventional single-decker, is the result of several year's research by Daimler-Benz, MAN, Bosch and Dornier.

The time and the idea are gradually coming to look increasingly right. Essen, the Ruhr city, is due to try out the dual mode bus in day-to-day traffic in about three years.

What is new about the combination is the option of guiding the bus automatically along special tracks. There are two varieties of track envisaged.

The first idea is a set of crash barriers between which the bus will drive, using flexible rollers to keep its distance. Rollers would be retractable, like aircraft undercarriages.

The second idea is a guide cable laid in the middle of the road. Electronic sensors in the bus would pick up its wavelength and shepherd the vehicle along as if by an invisible hand.

The advantage of the dual mode idea is its flexibility. It combines the benefits of driver controls with those of track-using vehicles.

Keeping to a track leaves more room for other road-users, and tracks are relatively inexpensive to build because no leeway is needed or provided.

On automatic pilot, buses save energy because they run more smoothly. What is more, they make life easier for the driver and reduce the accident risk.

The basic idea is for the dual mode bus to be driven in the conventional manner in the countryside or on the outskirts of town but automatically and along tracks in busy and congested city-centres.

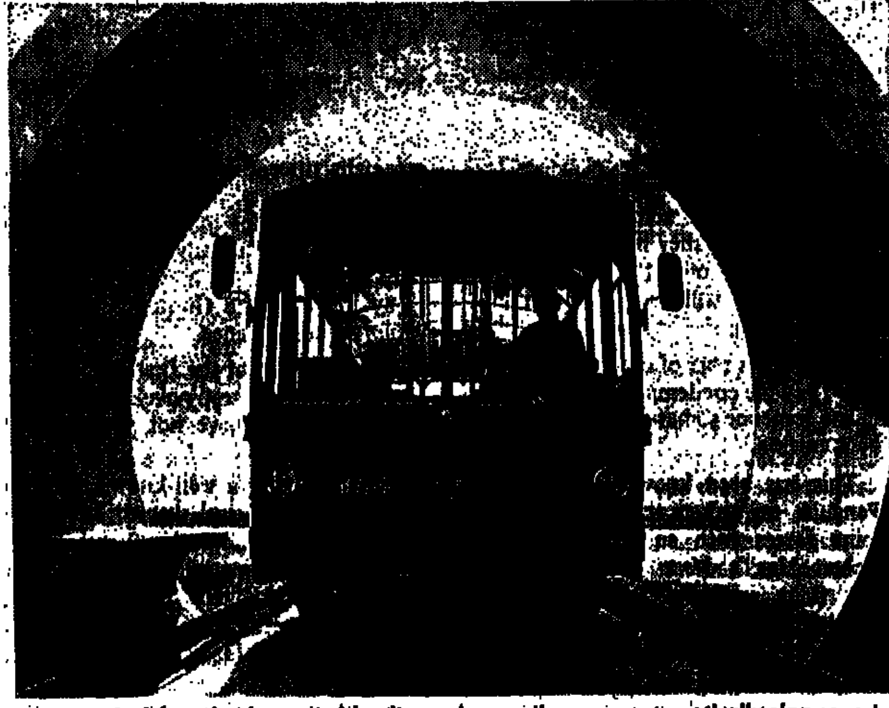
Since the principle does not exclusively apply to any one category of vehicle, imaginative design engineers have already tried out the idea with trucks. They think heavy goods vehicles running along special tracked autobahn lanes would solve congestion problems on the motorways.

No-one has yet given serious thought to extending the principle to private cars. But once the backroom boys work out a way of automating overtaking, automated computerised long-distance road transport by private car too could help to relieve traffic congestion.

Traffic jams and accidents would then be a thing of the past.

Horst Güntheroth

(Die Zeit, 9 May 1980)



The new dual-function bus can either be used normally or run automatically along special tracks supported by horizontally extended rollers. (Photo: Mercedes-Benz)

Battery-power vehicles begin tests

Large-scale trials of battery-powered motor vehicles are to be held in West Berlin over the next couple of years. Details have been outlined by Peter Glotz, the city's Senator for Science and Research.

A fleet of about 75 minibuses and vans manufactured by Volkswagen and Daimler-Benz are to be put through their paces over a two-year period until the end of 1982.

They will be tested for energy consumption, expense, the urban infrastructure needed and safety aspects, Dr Glotz said. The Bonn Research Ministry was investing between DM13m and DM15m in the project.

Bonn has earmarked DM 132m for research into alternative energy on road transport.

At the end of 1979 large-scale trials of motor vehicles powered by methanol and hydrogen were also begun in Berlin.

The battery-powered vans will be driven mainly by corporation departments, small firms that deliver to customers, fitters and artisans.

The electric vehicles have a range of between 60 and 70 kilometres, or about 40 miles, but can be recharged at any standard electric point. Besides, braking energy is recycled en route.

Berlin transport specialists plan to take a new look at long-term trends. They set no great store by energy estimates that forecast a substantial increase in consumption by the turn of the century, 70 per cent of which is envisaged as being due to transport demand.

Research scientists at the Technical University say such long-range forecasts are meaningless and cannot be taken seriously.

They are based on the assumption that post-war transport and housing trends will continue ad infinitum, with full maintenance of the status quo and never a suspicion of social change.

They ought to be based on the fact that more and more people are dissatisfied with current transport policy, that the change in public awareness is influencing transport planning and that environmental strains have already led to genuine changes.

The renaissance of the bicycle and the ongoing debate about public transport are both factors that on no account can be dismissed as coincidence.

Transport planners and economists, sociologists and social psychologists, town and country planners are all associated with the project, which starts by taking a closer look at current motor vehicle technology.

A 15-per-cent fuel saving could, they say, be made simply by changing driving habits. Further savings could be brought about by reducing aerodynamic resistance, by boosting engine performance without increasing engine size and by recycling brake power.

Constructive changes in these sectors of automotive engineering and design can only be ensured by exerting political pressure on the motor industry.

Private cars will probably become more expensive as environmental changes are made mandatory, so motoring will not be within everyone's financial reach.

Research scientists expect automotive energy consumption to decline as a result.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 17 May 1980)

■ LITERATURE

German writers' continuing struggle to win British acceptance

British readers have little enthusiasm for contemporary German literature.

If everything went in accordance with strict logic, ideas ought to be increasingly similar in an age of electronic revolution in telecommunications and the media.

An identical level of knowledge and a universal exchange of ideas ought eventually to be achieved, but logic does not take into account irrational resistance that jams reception of the information relayed.

In Britain, for instance, membership of the Common Market has paradoxically intensified the sense of national feeling. Much lamented and much maligned, insularity has, if anything, increased.

Maybe it is a little premature to talk in terms of fully-fledged xenophobia, but suddenly there are strong tendencies towards it nearly everywhere. The slogan is Be British, Buy British.

Take, for instance, the book market. The percentage of non-English books at the bookseller's is infinitesimally small, always excepting US publications, of course.

They enjoy special status in view of traditional ties between British and American culture and between British and American publishers.

Unlike German readers, readers in Britain show progressively less interest in what is written and read in other countries.

This was not always the case, certainly not in the 18th century or earlier, when Continental models, especially French and Italian, exerted a decisive influence on up-and-coming English literature.

Each and every educated English gentleman went at least once on a Grand Tour of Europe.

In the Victorian era literature became a middle class preoccupation and grew narrower in scope and interest, more or less coinciding with the time at which the British Empire stretched farthest and widest.

German literature only exercised any real influence and had genuine friends in British artistic circles at one specific period.

It was the revolutionary era between Enlightenment and Romanticism, an age when the new subjectivism derived poetic and philosophical inspiration from Klopstock and Herder, Kant and Schelling.

German Classicism and subsequent literary developments went largely unnoticed by British readers, honourably excepting only inviduals such as Coleridge and Carlyle.

A similarly significant Anglo-German literary rapprochement did not recur until the age of Brechtian dramatic theory.

In contrast the openness of the German book market to imports from abroad and the receptiveness of German literature to foreign influence are unique phenomena.

To the best of my knowledge there is no other European (or Western) country, apart, perhaps, from the Soviet Union, where as many works are published in translation as in Germany.

This testifies to a wide interest, and arguably even to a wide acquaintanceship, whereas the quest for both would be in vain in Britain.

There the rule of thumb is that if you want to gain acquaintanceship with foreign literature you must learn the language of the country or countries in question.

Works in translation are sporadic and unsystematic in their random availability, especially (although by no means exclusively) translations of German literature.

German literature is, in any case, poles apart from English literature in both mood, intention and function.

This is a fact Germans will find hard to appreciate or to accept, since English literature has wielded such enormous influence in Germany that it seems a kindred soul and relatively easy to assimilate (and translate).

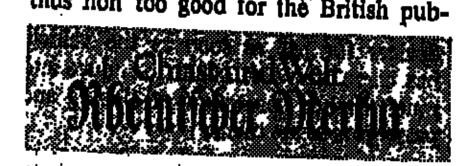
I would go so far as to claim that there are still many non-literary reasons for what is still widespread British prejudice towards and dislike of German literature.

From the Middle Ages England has been politically geared to France and Italy and these two have exerted a traditional influence that did not come to a halt until the early 19th century.

It was then that an arrogant, chauvinistic movement of self-reliance set in among empire-builders, leading to insularity. In those days Britain dug in not on account of an inferiority complex but because it had inflated opinions of its own worth.

Nowadays the reasons are more ambivalent, since Britain has fully committed itself, for the first time in its history, both politically and economically to Europe.

Taken in conjunction with current economic difficulties the situation is thus non too good for the British pub-



lisher who would like to publish foreign literature in translation.

He has difficulty in selling not only new titles but also older titles in his list, such as classics and other slow sellers. Thomas Mann is a case in point.

Mann is available in a fine English translation and sells slowly but steadily: about 100 copies a year of each work in hardback. No-one is going to earn a fortune from sales like these.

Even worse, the publisher will not earn enough to be able to finance new print runs when they become necessary. So before long only the odd novel by Thomas Mann will be available in English translation.

The same is true of other German classics. They are condemned to a slow death unless someone somewhere prints a paperback edition.

This has been known to happen, in Penguin, say, when an active publisher joins forces with an active translator. Robert Musil's *Mann ohne Eigenschaften* (Man without Qualities) recently owed its appearance in English translation to this combination.

Better late than never, you might say, but splendid though this publishing landmark may be, it is irksome that none of Musil's other works is currently available in English.

So if you want to read *Young Törless* or *Three Women* you must either learn German or be lucky enough to find an old translation in stock at your local library.

The superficial observer may come across other translations from German and conclude with a note of satisfaction that more has been translated over the years than might appear to be the case from a brief glance at the bookseller's shelves.

In modern German literature English translations have been made not only of the big names such as Günter Grass, Heinrich Böll, Bertolt Brecht, Siegfried Lenz, Martin Walser and Uwe Johnson.

Bienek and Härtling, Bieler and Elsner, Peter Weiss, Handke, Kunze, Botho Strauss and Christa Wolf have also been translated into English.

But the snag is that these translations in many cases go largely unnoticed and vanish as fast as they appear. Arts page editors have never heard of them and commission either the briefest of reviews or none at all. Booksellers don't order them because they stock in accordance with what the reviewers say.

An exception to this rule is the staff of the *Times Literary Supplement*, which conscientiously reviews nearly everything literary and secondarily literary that is published in Britain.

The *TLS* even reviews selected foreign texts, but only works of which it may be forecast with a fair degree of probability that they will never be translated into English anyway. Ironic, isn't it?

German literature still is translated into English, however, but credit is almost entirely due to Inter Nationes, an agency bankrolled by the Bonn Foreign Office that pays British publishers subsidies towards the cost of translating about 150 works a year into English.

About 20 are fiction, the remainder being arts non-fiction. There is also the annual Schlegel-Tieck translation prize for either a work or an oeuvre, and it is both renowned and coveted (if only because it boosts the low translator's fees).

The list of works submitted for consideration by the Schlegel-Tieck award jury are a fair indication of what Inter Nationes and British publishers reckon is marketable and worth translating.

It too consists of much more non-fiction than fiction, biography, history, memoirs, political books and popular science from the German bestseller lists, especially titles that are likely to appeal to English readers.

The print runs of these works in translation are usually much shorter than they would be in Germany, especially fiction. Take Günter Grass's *The Flounder*, for instance.

The print run of the first English edition of Grass's latest novel was a mere 7 500, and they have not yet sold out either.

Even for such a well-known German writer, a novelist and playwright with a European reputation, the British publisher needs either a subsidy or at least guaranteed sales to Inter Nationes, which ensures that part of the edition is marketed in the English-speaking Third World.

Maybe the Oscar awarded the film version of Grass's novel *The Tin Drum* will boost his sales a little, but publishers hedge their bets and their costs from the start by the translation and printing costs with associate.

The reception given German literature in Britain is not limited to the market, one is happy to say. Otherwise the situation would be pretty desperate.

Stage and screen are two important channels through which British audiences are confronted, albeit belatedly, with German contemporary or classical literature.

The delay can be substantial. Büchner, Wedekind and Brecht then did not really establish a foothold in the British theatre until a few years ago, and in each case it was after several unsuccessful attempts.

Then comes Schnitzler, an Austrian, and contemporary dramatists Handke and Franz-Xaver Kroetz, both of whom fared better a few years ago than they are doing right now.

And that is it as far as German playwrights are concerned. Recent productions of Schiller's *The Robbers*, Goethe's *Iphigenie* and Hauptmann's *The Weavers* have all been flops.

The reason is probably that the aesthetics of the German stage are poles apart from the audience-orientated aesthetics of the British stage. In Britain only what the public like can hold its own.

So there can not even be any guarantee of a benevolent reception for performances by visiting German theatre companies, and they cross the Channel less and less frequently now that Peter Daubeny, the impresario who used to stage the annual international theatre festivals at the Aldwych, has died.

Peter Stein's West Berlin production of Chekhov's *Cherry Orchard* was fairly well received but did not, by any stretch of the imagination, play to full houses as is usually the case in the National Theatre.

Other example of work by modern German directors, such as Neuenfels' famous version of Schiller's *Kabale und Liebe*, have met with total misunderstanding because they were so far removed from reality.

The German stage as understood in Britain is legendary, and the legend is based mainly on periodic visits by the Brechtian Berliner Ensemble from East Berlin.

It is reputed to be featherbedded by what, from a British point of view, are fairytale subsidies, whereas German opera and operatic directors are greatly admired, as is everything and everyone German who has anything to do with music. So opera and music provide a mode of access to the British market for German literature that ought not to be underestimated. Strauss operas have libretos by Hofmannsthal and Zweig. Schubert, Schumann and Wolff (not to mention other Lieder composers) set to music poems by Goethe, Eichendorff and Mörike.

The composers and their work are so well known in Britain that most people have at least heard of the names of the writers whose lyrics they used.

Hölderlin of all people is the exception to the rule that Germany's princes of poetry are virtually unknown in Britain. He is extremely well translated and available in paperback too.

The credit for this is due to the untiring effort of his translator, Michael Hamburger, a German émigré and Schlegel-Tieck award-winner who himself writes poetry in English. Hamburger has translated into English not only Hölderlin, Takl, Benn and Hofmannsthal

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■ THE CINEMA

Vintage year for German films at Cannes festival

West German films played a leading part in this year's Cannes festival. They were represented in all sections.

Four entries were chosen for the Quinzaine, more than any other country. The Quinzaine is a fringe counter-festival run by young film makers.

Some had already been screened back home but many have been new for foreign critics. They included Kluge's *Patriotin* (Woman Patriot) and *Der Kandidat*, the satire aimed at Franz Josef Strauss, Shadow Chancellor in the forthcoming West German general election campaign.

For German critics the most interesting entry was, however, Bernhard Sinkel's *Kaltgestellt* (Out Cold). It was the sole German entry for the Golden Palm.

The Golden Palm awards at Cannes are so coveted that only the Oscar outranks them.

What was more, Sinkel's latest film dealt with an extremely controversial issue, the *Verfassungsschutz*, or West German domestic counter-espionage service. Unfortunately, one must begin by admitting, *Kaltgestellt* was a great disappointment. It was little more than a run-of-the-mill political thriller along the lines of detective serials on TV.

Nearly all the scenes are shot in a kind of twilight or semi-darkness, and unless you knew Sinkel was a more accomplished film-maker you could be excused for thinking that he badly needed a new lights man.

But it was probably meant symbolically. After *Germany in Autumn*, the documentary about life in Germany in autumn 1977 when urban guerrillas abducted and killed employers' leader Hanns-Martin Schleyer, we are presumably now being treated to Germany in Twilight.

The film tells the tale of an ordinary Berlin teacher, Brasch, played by Helmut Griem. Brasch is no left-winger; the left-winger in the family is his wife, who has deserted him and their child to live in a commune, or shared apartment.

But he is not a right-winger either. The right is personified by the State, with which he soon has trouble.

One of his pupils who was emplyed as an agent by the *Verfassungsschutz* commits suicide, and when Brasch refuses to hand over the pupil's diary it looks like there is going to be a scandal.

Instead, the *Verfassungsschutz* sacks its shady agent, Körner, played by Martin Benrath, and Körner, instead of looking for another job, has nothing better to do with his time than to wage private war on the poor teacher.

In this vendetta Brasch's only supporter is a Spanish journalist, Angela Mollina, who speaks French and is writing a book on *Le Berufsverbot*.

After a certain amount of toing and froing the denouement is typical Cops & Robbers fare. The protagonists meet in an isolated spot, a shot is fired and the victim staggers off into the distance.

Kaltgestellt seems to be a variation on Katharina Blum with an admixture of Kramer v. Kramer. It was doubtless put together with the best of intentions.

But with the best will in the world it cannot be said to tell all about the *Verfassungsschutz*. It merely shows us a private vendetta waged by a psychopath.

Körner, like all *Verfassungsschutz* agents (or so, presumably, we are meant to infer), wears his hat pulled down to half-cover his face.

And to make sure that no-one misses the point that he is completely *kaputt* he is forever seen guzzling away at a *schnapps* bottle.

Director Sinkel did not want to paint everything in black and white, so he took care to ensure that all his characters could be interpreted as victims of a State of snoopers.

Körner is basically a good man who just does his job, and even the police officer does not really want to press the trigger, but has to do so; he too is doubtless the victim of some regulation or other.

Nothing is seen of the evil State that is responsible for this state of affairs. Sinkel had no intention of portraying it. He wanted, or so he said in Cannes, to depict a political climate.

If we take him at his word, life in Germany must be exactly like it is in a TV detective thriller series.

Indeed, what Sinkel had to say was more interesting than the film he directed. Why, for instance, he asked, had most German journalists left his press conference so early?

One German film critic the rest of us had always regarded as in no way out of the ordinary must somehow have felt his hour had come.

He plucked up his courage, went up to the microphone and disrespectfully said that it was because none of them were allowed to spill the beans about the *Verfassungsschutz* in their newspapers anyway.

Sinkel then posed another polemical question. Why, he wondered, had his, of all films, so far been unable to find a distributor in Germany?

Schlöndorff's Katharina Blum, based on the story by Heinrich Böll, was widely screened in Germany, and so is *Der Kandidat*, in mid-campaign too.

Well, the opening film of the Quinzaine was much more satisfactory in many ways, and the anti-festival seems to be regaining its reputation of providing an outlet for new films from the Third World in particular.

Hazal, the first full-length film directed by 33-year-old Turk Ali Özgentürk, was a film of the kind that only a de-



Bernhard Sinkel. (Photo: dpa)

veloping country of the silver screen can produce.

Heedless of pathos or cliché it told its tale, and did so in imagery that was almost tender in its beauty.

Hazal is a girl who is sold as a bride to a boy groom and tortured by his family until she is eventually abducted by a man. But the villagers find them and shoot them both.

In the final scene the boy groom looks on distractedly at the two corpses.

At the same time the film tells the tale of a road that is being built to link the village with other parts of the desert of southern Anatolia.

The villagers look on the road as the work of the Devil, but despite their efforts to sabotage it, work is finally completed and we see the finished product.

The director scrupulously avoids commentary. With equanimity he shows the hardship and dignity of village life, yet he no less calmly shows us the road in the making. It is just a fact, although the villagers come to regard it as somehow ominous.

Hazal is an unusual film. It has its shortcomings but is nonetheless a testomony to a powerful narrative genius.

Wilfried Wiegand

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 May 1980)

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but also Brecht, Grass, Huchel, Kunze and others.

Virtually on his own he has paved the way for a reception in Britain of German poetry. Sad to say, Goethe has yet to find such a fine advocate and translator, so he is still virtually unknown in Britain as a poet, dramatist and novelist.

People do not even realise that the librettos of Berliosz's *Faust* and Massenet's *Werther* are based on works by Goethe.

Interestingly enough, German writers Erich Fried, Elias Canetti and Arnold Hauser are virtually unknown in Britain, the country where they sought refuge from the Third Reich.

By continuing to write in their native language they put paid to any recogniton they might have hoped to gain in the country of their choice.

Erstwhile German writers such as Arthur Koestler, art historians Ernst Gombrich and Nikolaus Pevsner and philosopher Karl Popper established themselves extremely well in their new country by clearly opting to write in English.

Gombrich, Pevsner and Popper became such well-known and respected figures in their respective fields that they were all awarded knighthoods.

The German cinema similarly paves the way for German literature and its reception in Britain. Directors Fassbinder and Wenders, Herzog, Schlöndorff and Syberberg are well-known and held in high repute.

An educated British public owes its knowledge of the existence of Fontane's *Effi Briest*, of Handke's prose, the young Musil and Karl May to films by German directors. The books on which the films are based are not always available.

Pabst, Murnau and Fritz Lang in the years between the two World Wars did much the same for Goethe's Faust, Brecht and Expressionist literature.

One is tempted to suggest that in Britain (and, for that matter, in America) German literature is more likely to reach an appreciative audience when it is packaged by an international medium such as the screen or the musical theatre.

The language barrier is almost insuperable as far as the original work is concerned, but cinemagoers make do with sub-titles, while operagoers make do with programme notes when an opera is sung in the original German.

Maybe this striking lack of interest in German literature is simply due to its preference for different aesthetic considerations.

There is a growing interest in German philosophy in Britain. Marx is keenly read, of course, but so, nowadays, are Hegel, Nietzsche and Walter Benjamin. So one wonders whether different aesthetic predilections might account for literary disinterest.

Where philosophy is concerned the language barrier is evidently not insuperable. In a philosophic context the German mentality is, for once, both understandable and fascinating.

What, then, is so typically Teutonic and hard to digest about German literature for the British reader?

Literature in both countries must surely be held to conform to Matthew Arnold's definition of literature as criticism of life. The difference lies in the way in which this role is interpreted.

In Britain criticism of society and life seldom goes so far as to preclude the possibility of tolerance, solidarity or continuity of tradition, whereas German writers at times observe and criticise with such hatred that they automatically establish themselves as outsiders.

Criticism of the first kind accepts a share of responsibility and is thus always self-critical too, whereas the other kind regards its role as that of provocation and thus confrontation.

British literary ambitions seldom extend to alienation or the role of the outsider, which have predominated in Germany since the Romantic era and been particularly evident in the post-war period.

British writers groan about philistines, criticise class society and lament their country's decline, but they don't feel themselves to be better or different, persecuted or neglected in the way that their German counterparts do.

German writers feel duty bound to perform a democratic watchdog role. They rate themselves the moral conscience of the nation. For the British, literature is first and foremost entertainment and imagination, a pleasing style and an exercise in communication.

Thus literature deals in the main with immediate reality and examination of reality. It is also invariably aware of the reader and the need to ensure his understanding and to meet his requirements.

Woe betide the writer who deals in boredom or writes in a manner that is hard to understand, shocking or long-winded, be it for purposes of either innovation or provocation.

These are all attributes that are felt to be characteristic of German literature and broadly termed Teutonic by the British reader, who also suspects German writers of narcissism and an excessive tendency to carp and moan. One is tempted to accuse English literature of failing to take risks and try out experiments, whereas German literature lays itself open to accusations of being too serious.

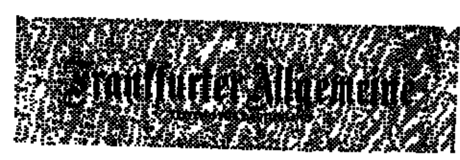
The two differ as much as the social climate of the two countries does, based as it is on the one hand on a desire to be sociable and on the other on a desire to be in the right and have one's one way. In the circumstances it is, perhaps, hardly surprising that the exchange of books and mutual literary acquaintanceship are so limited.

Gertrud Mander

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 16 May 1980)

■ CHILDREN

'Right approach' to crucial 10th school year



Germany is on the right track with the range of educational facilities it offers to 16-year-olds. This rather flattering finding has emerged from an OECD seminar on the introduction of a compulsory 10th year of schooling in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The seminar in Bonn, was attended by senior officials of the education ministries of Belgium, France, Britain, Holland, Austria, Switzerland and the United States. Among those present was OECD Director Gass whose department is in charge of education, labour and social policy.

Five of the countries that sent delegates already have a minimum compulsory education of 10 years. The two others, Switzerland and Austria, do not intend to introduce it.

None of the delegates proposed that their countries' systems be introduced elsewhere. Instead, they aired their concern over the controversial tenth year.

Their advice to Germany was that the 10th year be provided as a wide range of possibilities rather than a uniform educational facility.

How do these foreigners see their own and our educational problems?

Herr Leitner, a senior official of the Austrian Education Ministry, said that while his country does not have a compulsory 10th year, two-thirds of the children in that age group made use of non-compulsory schooling facilities.

He praised German efforts to combine a general education curriculum with vocational subjects, which he termed stimulating and an excellent solution.

Other foreign delegates criticised that the vocational training offered in the 10th grade pinned a young person to a specific vocation too early in life.

French Inspecteur Général Bruyère reported on his country's efforts not to overburden the 10th year (which France introduced 20 years ago) with too much abstract knowledge and to provide more manual activities for those talented in that direction. A "concerted education" is what he called his country's objective.

The intention is to promote an "opening of the school on to practical life" and to give those who reject further education an opportunity to return to a general education curriculum after a phase in which they have gathered practical experience.

In America, where the 10th year has been compulsory for a long time, dissatisfaction is spreading with a too generally oriented curriculum, said a senior official of the Education Department, Mr O'Keefe. The adoption of the German system of dual vocational training is under discussion in America.

Britain's undersecretary of education, Mr Hudson, said that since his country introduced a compulsory 10th year in 1973 some positive experience has been made – especially in overcoming the regional education gap. But there are still many unsolved problems, especially concerning the "less talented and motivated juveniles".

The seminar also discussed the fact that youth unemployment in the three European countries (Germany, Switzerland and Austria) and the United States, where there is a dual educational system, is much lower than in other West European nations.

OECD Director Gass said that his organisation was preparing a report on this phenomenon, adding that everything has its price. The price for low youth unemployment in Germany – possibly due to the vocational education system – is the "premature social selection" that could be offset by as "second chance system".

Austria's Herr Leitner said that it would not be possible in any West European country and America to integrate the schooling system in a "rigid block".

This, he said, was the aspect where we greatly differed from the East bloc.

Pluralistic systems that provide the individual with a maximum of opportunity also have a drawback: the greater the opportunity for the individual, the more emphasis is put on differences.

Individual counselling in simple language that the juvenile understands could offset some of these shortcomings.

No matter how difficult, Herr Leitner said, we must do equal justice to the talented and the disadvantaged or handicapped. He quoted an axiom of American educational policy makers: "How can we be equal and excellent too?"

The OECD seminar was unable to find a satisfactory answer. Still, it concluded that Germany's concept deserved the mark "A-B", as Herr Leitner put it – apologising for his schoolmasterly grading.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 May 1980)

Studying the psychology behind disobedience

Even the ancient Greeks complained that their children were becoming more unruly and disobedient from generation to generation. Nothing has changed.

But why is it that children refuse to obey their parents? Or rather: why are some children disobedient frequently and others rarely?

Psychology Professors Dietmar Schulte (Ruhr University, Bochum) and Werner Nobach (Psychological Counselling Centre in Wetter, North Rhine-Westphalia) have found that obedience diminishes when the home atmosphere is tense and when parents frequently criticise their children.

The researchers asked 34 mothers who had consulted educational counselling centres for a number of reasons to carry out behavioural studies with their children.

All children were of school age, the youngest seven and the oldest 11. They were to do their homework first. Having done this, they were free to play. While the mothers were present during homework they had no hand no hand in it and went about other chores.

The whole procedure was filmed and the films later evaluated by a special observation system for parent-child interaction.

In the course of the study, the children were asked 677 times to do something; 76.7 per cent complied. There were considerable differences from child to child: four obeyed all instructions while one obeyed only two out of five on average.

Surprisingly, there was no difference between being told to do homework and being told to go and play: in both instances the rate of compliance was the same.

Remarkably, the "good" children obeyed almost always when instructed in a pleasant manner: only in 3.8 per cent of these cases did friendly requests fail in this group.

When the instruction was given in a harsh tone of voice the disobedience rate of the "good" children rose to 17 per cent.

The situation was different where the "disobedient" children were concerned. Here, a friendly tone was of little use. Though these children were equally unprepared to obey a harsh instruction, there was also nothing to indicate that a harsh tone was less effective in their case.

Researchers attributed this to the tense relationship between the disobedient children and their parents – a relationship that could not be bridged by occasional friendliness.

Observation showed that this tension arose from the fact that the mothers of disobedient children criticised them more frequently than those of the "good" children. Reproof and instructions to do something accounted for half of all mother-child contacts in the disobedient group. In the group of good children, criticism and demands accounted for slightly less than one-third of communication.

It has not yet been established whether disobedience is due to the irritability of the mothers or whether, vice versa, the disobedience causes the irritability. In all probability both is true: irritability makes the child disobedient and a disobedient child makes the mother more irritable, resulting in a spiralling effect.

The researchers conclude: occasional changes in the mother's tone have become relatively unimportant to the child and, vice versa, the mother's irritability is understandable because she finds it hard to control the child. She probably feels forced to use criticism and frequent orders. But unfortunately this does not help.

The whole things is a vicious circle: a tense atmosphere makes the child more disobedient and his frequent disobedience causes a tense atmosphere, making the child even more disobedient.

It seems that the traditional approach of meeting increasing disobedience with increasing harshness is wrong.

Counsellors should work towards reducing mother-child tension which would automatically lead to increased obedience as a pleasant side effect.

Winfried Berner

(Kieler Nachrichten, 15 May 1980)

German papers hard to read, say pupils

Some German schoolchildren [...] that German newspapers are [...]ficult to read.

This was one of the findings of [...] paper reading project in Düren, [...] Rhine-Westphalia.

Seventy four per cent of the [...] who were polled during the exp[...] favour reading the Press as a sch[...]ject.

But they want publishers to ma[...] papers easier to read – both [...] and parents.

For five months 500 pupils we[...] vided with a newspaper every day [...] was carefully studied in the classr[...]

The experiment was initiated [...] educational institute, supported [...] banks and two newspaper publ[...] The aim was to instil a desire [...] and understand the press.

Although the various topics [...] newspapers were discussed in cla[...] the children were examined as to [...] understanding of them, only 11 per [...] considered the whole thing a burden [...] rest saw it as a type of quiz.

In the beginning, there was little [...]thusiasm and the children read prim[...] the sports pages. Only 7.5 per c[...] looked at economic topics and 7.2 [...] cent at cultural affairs.

There were, however, considerable [...]ferences between girls' and boys' [...]tudes.

Among the boys, the sports [...] were followed by local events and [...]tics. For 35.6 per cent of the girls [...]tics held the least interest.

Seventy per cent of the parents' [...] homes subscribed to a daily. Accordin[g] to the children themselves, however, [...] parents only glanced at the paper [...] the children ignored it.

According to the principal, the c[hil]dren underwent a genuine lear[ning] process in several stages.

At first, the experiment was welco[med] as something new in the daily tread[...] Then the children became accust[omed] to it and acquired a certain routin[e] [...] newspaper reading. But as the nov[elty] wore off this was followed by bored[om] and rejection.

The breakthrough came when t[he] youngsters learned to cope with [...] and terminology. As the effort it took [to] read the paper diminished, interest g[rew] as did the pleasure in being inform[ed] and the ability to separate the esse[ntial] from the unimportant.

Towards the end of the experi[ment] the children had become seasoned [news]paper readers.

Their interests also shifted: 51 per [cent] now show interest in politics and t[he] economy; 34 per cent are interested i[n] cultural affairs; and 70 per cent in loca[l] events.

The most positive result is that th[ey] now discuss events among each ot[her] and write letters to the editor.

The experiment was backed-up [by] visits to various factories and discuss[ions] with MPs.

The only negative experience [was] made by a teacher who began with t[he] project only two months before it [end]ed. His class never got to the stage [of] becoming accustomed to newsp[aper] reading.

A side effect was that the childre[n] delving into newspapers also aroused [...]

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■ MINORITY GROUPS

Ankara meeting works to close the cultural gap for migrants

Arts officers from 10 West German cities including Frankfurt, Bonn, Munich and Düsseldorf attended a seminar in Ankara, Turkey, to try and help bridge the gap between Germans and Turks.

The siminar was arranged by the Goethe Institute. Frankfurt's Hilmar Hoffmann has been the first local authority arts officer to draft a blueprint.

An estimated million and a half Turks live in West Germany yet remain aliens, much more so than other minority, non-German communities.

It is partly their way of life and their language that set them apart, partly their religion and political views and at times, perhaps, a self-imposed isolation.

Besides, few in this country have more than the haziest ideas about Turkish culture. Like so much that is non-European, it is unknown and underrated.

Turkish carpets might come to mind, plus a little folklore. But did you know there was a rich tradition of Turkish literature, dating, in written form, back to the 13th century?

Did you know there was a rich and varied Turkish musical tradition? Do you care? Does anyone?

Strange to say, Turkish culture was more popular in Western Europe during the Turkish wars, from the 16th to the 18th centuries, than it is today.

Janissary music, a variety of military music with much percussion, was a case in point. It may mean nothing nowadays but Mozart was certainly conversant with it.

Yasar Kemal, the Turkish writer, is regularly suggested as a deserving candidate for Nobel laureate honours. But that is about as far as it ever goes.

Local authority arts officers and the Goethe Institute, keen to point out that the Turks are anything but a nation of dustmen, went to Ankara to learn more.

In the Turkish capital they conferred with politicians, historians and social psychologists on ways of intensifying cultural exchange.

The aim was to benefit not only Turkish workers and their families but also the Germans themselves.

So one outcome of the conference was the decision by Turkey to consider a major exhibition on the Hittites which, as the final communiqué noted, would undoubtedly be of substantial interest in Germany.

The Hittites are archaeology and early history in part of what is now Turkey, and their story is told in a major museum in Ankara.

They are the past; the present is, for instance, the 130,000 Turks in Kreuzberg, a borough of Berlin, or the 25,000 Turks in Frankfurt.

What can be done to help them? Ali Dincer, Ankara's 34-year-old lord mayor, had some ideas, Hilmar Hoffmann of Frankfurt looks like being the first German to arrange ideas systematically.

He would like to join forces with arts officers in other cities in a bid to achieve a modicum of integration while allowing the Turks to retain their identity.

He has in mind a flexible package of education and information programmes going far beyong the customary folklore evenings.

In Frankfurt at least, he is quick to add, Turkish films are frequently screened at the Kommunales Kino and at civic centres. Turks go to see them too.

But German, the language, is the first problem. The language barrier must be scaled before even a modicum of integration can be accomplished, Hoffmann says.

Fluency in German is, moreover, the only way in which Turkish migrant workers can boost their market value, keep up with the competition and gain promotion at work.

One they have learnt this message they ought surely to be sufficiently motivated to go to the trouble of learning the language, he feels.

Finance, he reckons, should not prove a problem. Money invested in language courses is bound to cut costs now being spent on welfare provisions.

At present only one Turkish youngster in five passes the school-leaving certificate. The rest usually fail to find an apprenticeship. This sows the seed of social trouble.

But his aim is also to remind foreign nationals of their roots. Local authority arts officers were evidently surprised in Ankara at the history, science and book output Turkey has to offer.

They were also impressed by the cultural policy efforts by the authorities in Ankara, where the problem is one of integrating rural migrants to the towns in much the same way as, arguably, Turks are to be integrated in Germany.

Hoffmann's blueprint, a package that will doubtless be taken up by his opposite numbers in other cities, envisages a regular programme of writers, stage companies and singers from Turkey.

The purpose of the programme will be both to remind Turkish migrants of life back home and to show Germans what Turkish culture is like. Hoffmann plans to earmark between DM200,000 and DM250,000 from his next year's Frankfurt arts allocations.

He adds that costs could be cut substantially, especially travel expenses, if all 10 cities represented at the Ankara talks, including the North Rhine-Westphalian secretariat for joint cultural work in Wuppertal, were to join in.

Since he also hopes the Bonn Foreign Office will lend the venture initial financial support, Herr Hoffmann is, as usual, optimistic.

The educational planning department of the Volkshochschulverband, or Association of Night Schools and Evening Classes, has been commissioned to draft a curriculum for work with Turkish migrants.

It could well prove a blueprint for similar work with other foreign minorities in future.

For Frankfurt he hopes to submit to the city council a "systematic, continuous and variegated programme." It is intended to cater for two categories.

The first are the Turks who intend to return home after a few years spent working in Germany. The second are those who plan to stay in Germany, especially young people who have grown up and plan to start and raise a family here.

He hopes the trade unions and their works conveners will effectively persuade Turks to learn German and make sure their children get a good schooling too.

Herr Hoffmann anticipates difficulties with the Koran schools, not only because they are denominational but also because they provide a convenient opportunity of "dumping" the children and going out to work.

The Turkish government, he claims, is keeping a careful eye on the activities and development of Koran schools too.

Difficulties will always happen. He recalls the trouble in Sachsenhausen a few years ago when Turkish youngsters demolished rented rooms in the public library.

But he is confident the mistake made then will not be repeated. He feels Turkish-speaking librarians should have been employed, not welfare department officials.

So he plans to make a fresh start, preferably in the Gallus public library, which is large and central, combining librarians and evening classes in such a way that Turkish youngsters can pass their school-leaving certificate at night school and improve their job prospects.

He reckons the experiment will cost several hundred thousand deutschemarks, but if, as economists claim, the country continues to be dependent on foreign workers it must be prepared to finance their education and vocational training.

Besides, Turks are not just workmen. They also provide a cultural ferment in towns and cities, he maintains.

The cultural programme could well underscore the gain by inviting Turkish artistes to tour Germany. Why not show in Germany the 1979 Vienna exhibition about Osmanic influence during the wars with Turkey, he asks.

What, for that matter, about a more modest exhibition of the superb collection of Karagöz shadow puppets at the Leather Museum in Offenbach?

Offenbach is Frankfurt's neighbouring city and the Leather Museum is closed for alterations, but its stock should still be available at no great trouble or expense.

There are ample opportunities of giving Turkish art and culture a well-deserved and meaningful airing.

Rainer Hartmann

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 7 May 1980)

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parents' interest. They generally approved of the experiment.

The teachers now believe that a similar experiment should be made with younger children. They hold, however, that the project should be augmented by visits to editorial offices and printing shops to show the children how a newspaper is put together.

The Association of German Newspaper Publishers and the National Centre for Political Education now contemplate the establishment of a committee to promote the reading of newspapers in secondary schools nation-wide.

Thea Winandy

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 May 1980)

OUR WORLD

Uproar at court ruling on 'spoilt holiday'

A court ruling involving a holiday allegedly spoilt by mentally disturbed people has set off a series of protests.

The affair began when a 68-year-old pensioner sued a tour company on several grounds including the condition of beach and hotel.

The court agreed. But the pensioner decided to go to a higher court because the *decision did not take into account* her main grievance — that mentally disturbed people staying at the hotel had prevented her from fully enjoying the holiday.

And in the next court, the judge ruled:"It is obvious that a group of severely handicapped people must have an adverse effect on the vacation pleasure of a sensitive holiday maker.

"This is particularly so when the handicapped are mentally disturbed, unable to communicate by language and uttering inarticulate screams or having fits ... It is impossible to change the fact that there is suffering in the world; but it is equally impossible to deny the plaintiff the right not to be confronted with it — at least while on holiday."

Ever since the ruling, the Frankfurt court that issued it has been inundated with letters of protest. A school for the handicapped called for a protest demonstration, and a group of Frankfurt disabled has vowed demonstratively to attend any court proceedings under the judge who passed the ruling.

North Rhine-Westphalia's Social Affairs Minister Fahrthmann spoke of a scandal and Hesse's Justice Minister Günther said that he opposed the ruling. This prompted the court to hold a press conference on 24 April to clarify its stance. But things went from bad to worse.

The presiding judge deplored the distorted reports in the media, saying that the court did not rule on the disabled in general. Physical disablement, he said, did not detract from a vacationer's holiday pleasure. This was taken so much for granted by the court that it saw no necessity to mention it in the ruling.

But in this case the handicapped were mentally disturbed people, uttering inarticulate cries, stumbling uncoordinatedly, having fits of rage, etc. The court futhermore took into account the plaintiff's obvious sensitivity. The integration of mentally handicapped people into society, the judge said, can only be achieved within "the medically feasible and not in a holiday resort, by force and by bringing about a sudden confrontation with concentrated misery."

The judge made it clear that pregnant women, children and old people should be spared the sight of such mentally disturbed people: "My assessors and I leave it to the individual to judge this question objectively and unemotionally. Such an individual will have to decide whether a tour operator who promises people who have spent a year working hard under considerable stress a pleasant vacation has kept this promise in such circumstances."

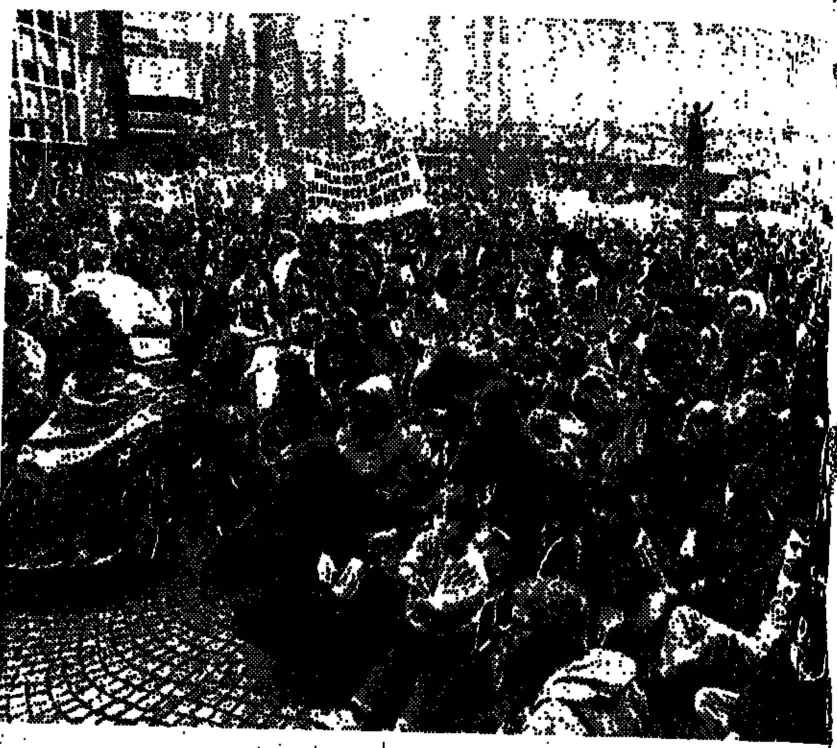
The judge is obviously not familiar with the handicapped. At his press conference he confused the mentally handicapped with the mentally ill, and he called the handicapped confined to wheelchairs "wheelchair patients". He had to admit that no-one except the plaintiff had seen the handicapped people in the hotel — not even he himself. But the law does not require this because the tour operator did not contradict the plaintiff.

The judge was accused of presenting a picture of the mentally handicapped that is in keeping with prejudices but not with reality.

Retorted the judge: "I must take into account the views held by the large majority of the public. What spoils a vacation and what doesn't also depends on the generally held view. People who go to a hotel should not have to expect to be confronted with such a mass of mentally handicapped that the hotel is turned into a clinic."

Ernst Klee

(Die Zeit, 2 May 1980)



More than 2,000 handicapped people demonstrating in Frankfurt against the decision. (Photo:

Older people should discuss the war years with the young, says the Chancellor

The Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, has called on older people to talk with the young and pass on their experiences of the war and post-war years.

By doing this, Herr Schmidt told the 8th national congress of senior citizens in Essen, they could help impress on the young what war means.

More than 6,000 people attended and, as a side event, an art exhibition was held.

The salient issues dealt with a meaningful use of old age, coping with overyday problems after retirement and relations with the younger generation.

The Chancellor said: "Pensioners have never been as well off as today."

The purchasing power (adjusted for inflation) of pensioners had risen by an average 45 per cent in the past decade while the working population's incomes had gone up by 31 per cent on average.

In a resolution, the congress countered the Chancellor's statements, saying that the rise of net wages and salaries is still above that of pensions.

Moreover, the development of pensions since 1979 has not only lagged behind incomes in general but also behind price increases. A resolution called for:

- Pensions based on gross wages without deductions for health insurance and change of taxation for pensioners, and legal provisions to ensure this;
- The increase of widows' pensions to at least 70 per cent of the husband's benefits;
- Adequate allowance for the time spent raising children and looking after next-of-kin requiring care as a component in the increase of pensions;
- Minimum pensions rights that would be clearly above the level of welfare assistance in such cases where pension rights have accrued from a full working life;
- Securing of adequate support even in cases necessitating the commitment of a pensioner to an old people's home of his choice; this to be paid for from the National Pensions Fund without welfare assistance.

The congress underscored the demand, saying that the needs of old people do not diminish but only shift to other items and that they therefore need as much money as when they were younger.

Professor Ursula Lehr of the Psychology Institute of Bonn University warned against one-sidedly viewing the issue of quality of life in old age under financial aspects and thus ignoring the true problems.

Ageing is an individual and social destiny to which one should not subject oneself passively but which should be seen as a fate to be dealt with actively by shaping one's old age, she said.

Quality of life in old age, she said, begins in kindergarten. It is at preschool age where the image of the old person as a competent, responsible and independent member of society must be put to rights. "Geroprophylaxis" must begin at that stage if this independence is to be achieved.

Some 20 per cent of Germans are older than 60, and this figure will rise to 33 per cent in 50 years.

Professor Lehr holds that such an over-ageing of a nation entails very specific tasks for any future policy. In it the profession of a geriatric nurse will become as important as that of a kindergarten teacher.

As a result, the congress called on society to accept old age as a natural stage of life and to realise at last that "old age does not mean social descent and that old people have a right to rejoice in a new experience."

Society's fallacious ideas of ageing and a number of social policy measures that have made old people "the wards of special care" have artificially shrunk the wide field of possible activities in old age.

Author Max von der Grün summed up: "We have not learned what to do with the few hours that remain to us."

Monica Cossardt

(Die Welt, 16 May 1980)



Their own thing

Grandmothers put their spare time to use: a course in do-it-yourself has been organised in Bremen for older women, mainly widows and others who live alone. The skills they learn enable them to do a variety of jobs from making double-glazed windows and wallpapering to building doll's cots. (Photo: Walter Schumann)

SPORT

Boycott issue drives the wedge home

The 15 May full session of the National Olympic Committee at the Düsseldorf Intercontinental was a battle royal between two grand old men of sport.

There was only one item on the agenda, whether or not to boycott the Moscow Olympics, and although a boycott decision seemed a foregone conclusion the voting, 59 for and 40 against, was closer than had been expected.

The two men were Willi Daume, chairman of the NOC and vice-chairman of the IOC, who was fighting a rearguard action to avert the boycott, and Sports League chairman Willi Weyer, who was pro-boycott.

As the votes were counted Herr Daume sat ashen-faced, playing nervously with his spectacle frame, running his fingers through the reams of paper in front of him, eyeing the press photographers as they lay in wait and finally gazing at the ceiling.

It was probably the toughest moment in his entire career as a sports official.

A few yards away Herr Weyer looked the picture of coolness, calmness and collectedness as he stood with a large cigar in one hand, nodding in one direction and exchanging witticisms in another.

He looked as though he was absolutely sure of himself and the outcome of the voting.

It was 2pm in the assembly hall of the Düsseldorf Interconti and the votes cast by the 53 NOC members on the boycott issue were being counted.

They had arrived for their extraordinary general meeting four hours earlier to reach a decision once and for all after a lengthy period during which they had been bombarded with requests, demands, resolutions, proposals and advice on the subject.

The way events had developed, it was bound to be a trial of strength between two groups, one led by sports idealist Willi Daume, the other by sports official yet *realpolitik* advocate Willi Weyer.

The first round of the clash between these two had gone to Herr Weyer. In Frankfurt the previous week the 20-member NOC executive committee had decided by 12 votes to 7, with one abstention, to recommend the meeting against taking part in the Moscow Olympics "in the circumstances."

In his almost desperate last-ditch bid to avert a boycott Herr Daume, who seemed increasingly blind to political realities, nonetheless referred to the possibility of the Düsseldorf gathering deciding otherwise despite the preliminary decision and prior recommendation.

But was this still a genuine possibility? Pundits had long since worked out that the balance had shifted in favour of a boycott among the sports associations representing the various disciplines too.

Yet Herr Daume still undertook a last attempt to avert the seemingly inevitable in Düsseldorf. He made an extremely serious opening speech under the cut glass chandeliers against a background that felt slightly antiquated.

His address was peppered with concepts such as moral legitimation, utopianism, idealism, humanity and patriotism.



Opposing views at the top: National Olympic Committee chairman Willi Daume (left) who was against the boycott and Sports League chairman Willi Weyer (in favour). (Photo: dpa)

He quoted Marxist philosopher Ernst Bloch and his "concrete utopia of reconciliation," he conjured the tiny gap by which one should leave the door open and he attacked politicians with their "today" fixation who had forgotten all about long-term objectives.

He referred to pressure from above, which should be resisted from below. He made a last stand for the Olympic idea, the prospects for survival of which he felt were negligible if the boycott were to take place.

A boycott of Moscow would leave the Olympic movement in ruins and there would be neither a Carter nor a Bonn government to help Olympic committee members to put the pieces together again.

Then came Herr Weyer. There were catcalls from the back of the hall, where a communist group had gained entry, as he took his place at the rostrum.

But his supporters were not slow to give him a good hand as he outlined his concisely enumerated views, beginning with the claim: "This boycott debate has been triggered not by the US President but by the Russian invasion of Afghanistan."

Herr Weyer went straight to the point. He referred to obligations and alliance commitments, saying, in a none too oblique reference to Herr Daume, that sport was not in a class of its own on some island of the blessed.

His closing argument was this: "There cannot, must not, be a division of labour



that amounts to us saying: 'You Americans can defend our freedom in Berlin while we compete at Moscow for you.'"

"Let's not go to Moscow!" were Herr Weyer's final words, while Herr Daume sat at the rostrum looking thoughtful and at times shaking his head.

When Herr Weyer returned to his place Herr Daume stood up and shook his hand, a gesture of conciliation evidently designed to counteract the general impression that the two men were hopelessly at odds.

But the fronts were certainly hard, as the debate over the next few hours clearly demonstrated, with the two sides' arguments clashing head-on.

Boycott opponent August Kirsch, representing amateur athletics, warned of the consequences for sporting contacts between East and West.

NOC member Count Landsberg then argued that a boycott was still the most humanitarian of all possible responses.

Oarsmen then claimed to be the sacrificial lamb on the altar of politics, while weight-lifters, who were also in favour of going to Moscow, accused the politicians of fobbing off responsibility on to organised sport.

The representative of the Hockey Association then told the gathering that he had looked in his atlas and concluded that Afghanistan could hardly be as insignificant as some made it out to be; it was three times larger than West Germany.

It was a somewhat strange debate that unearthed now new ideas, proving only how inextricably interlinked politics and sport are nowadays.

There was talk of the socialist threat and of appeasement, of bilateral ties and a detailed analysis of the US President's attitude.

It made you wonder about the basic principles of the Olympic movement as listed on leaflets handed out to journalists at the Interconti on behalf of the IOC.

The International Olympic Committee, for instance, was said to aim at governing sport in accordance with Olympic ideals and inspiring it in such a way that friendship among athletes of all countries was strengthened and promoted.

This basic principle sounds fine, of course, and doubtless gymnast Eberhard Glenger and basketball player Holger Gschwindner, who followed the course of the proceedings as spectators, would like nothing better than to strengthen and promote friendship at the Games.

But they too must have realised that a West German Olympic team was unlikely to be officially sent to Moscow.

When votes were collected and counted Herr Daume had every reason for anxiety, whereas Herr Weyer could afford to take it easy as he sat back and awaited the result.

He knew he had retained the upper hand in what was not a personal triumph but a political victory. Just after 2pm NOC general secretary Walther Tröger walked over to Willi Daume with a piece of paper on which the result was written in large red letters.

Herr Daume took at look at the figures, wiped the sweat from his brow, went to the microphone and announced the result. The full NOC had decided by 59 votes to 40 in favour of boycotting the Moscow Olympics.

Stefan Klein

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 May 1980)

Decision not to go splits serried ranks

West Germany's decision to boycott the Moscow Olympics led to a spate of activity among sports associations and organisations. Twenty-four hours after the NOC's Düsseldorf boycott decision this was the general trend:

Equestrians, swimmers, field and track athletes, oarsmen and boxers plan to take part in major international competitions launched, in many cases, by world federations as a counterweight to the Olympics.

Other disciplines too were busy trying to make alternative arrangements to keep their members happy.

In a gesture of seeming defiance a substantial number of top-rank athletes who were to have retired after Moscow now seem to have set themselves fresh international deadlines. They plan to stay in the running until 1981 at least.

Sports officials such as Sports Aid Foundation supremo Josef Neckermann now feel their main duty is to do everything possible to help athletes get over the disappointment and to motivate them for the future.

There will probably not be a wave of retirements prompted by the Düsseldorf boycott decision, although those known to be planning retirement include handball internationals Manfred Hofmann, Kurt Klühspies, Rudi Rauer and probably Heiner Brand, European record-holding swimmer Klaus Steinbach and Olympic gold medallist fencer Thomas Bach.

But all had planned to retire at the end of this season in any case.

Others who had planned to call it a day after Moscow are now reconsidering their decision in the light of changed circumstances.

Former world champion gymnast Eberhard Glenger said he would probably keep on for another season. World championship runner-up oarsman Peter-Michael Kolbe said he might be taking part in the 1981 Munich world championships after all.

World record-holding hammer thrower Karl-Hans Riehm said he would now be carrying on at least until the 1982 European championships, while European boxing champion Peter Hussing said his target was now the 1981 European championships.

Former Olympic gold medallist yachtsman Willi Kuhweide even went so far as to say he still felt young enough to compete at Los Angeles in 1984.

Equestrians and oarsmen have so far made most progress with alternative arrangements. The equestrian officials met in Düsseldorf and made a spot decision to hold national championships, which are not normally held in an Olympic year.

For the first time in its history the German Rowing Association will send a full team to compete in the Henley Regatta, while a trip to the United States scheduled for October will now be extended to include the entire national team.

Swimmers, cyclists, canoe specialists and yachtsmen were shortly to reach a decision on a suitable alternative to Moscow. "We would prefer a fortnight's surfing course in the Bahamas," a yachtsman quipped.

sid/dpa

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 17 May 1980)